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PRIZE ESSAY ON THE RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LANDS, BY COL. HORACE CAPRON,

OF LAUREL, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND.

To which was awarded the SECOND PREMIUM, a Piece of Plate valued at \$30.

Old established habits and prejudices are the formidable obstacles with which the agricultural writer of the present day has to contend. "Times have changed"—and soil and manner of cultivation have changed. A new era has dawned upon the agricultural interests of the country—our canals and railroads have opened new avenues to new and more fertile lands, and brought down their teeming productions to our markets.

Mind—has been the powerful agent, which has enabled man to control the elements and yoke them to his iron-car, which freighted with the rich productions of the fertile West, scales the rocky barrier, and appears on our Atlantic sea-board in powerful competition with our more sterile and worn-out lands. But thanks to an all-wise Providence—the application of that same powerful agent—"mind, to agriculture"—has restored the equilibrium, and rendered the renovation and restoration of our worn-out lands not only practicable, but profitable—and if it has not already, must soon check that emigration, which was fast depopulating the fairest portions of Maryland and Virginia.

The bowels of the earth have been probed, and its rich and fertilizing minerals have been brought to light, and reduced to proper consistency for use.—The islands of rich and powerfully concentrated manures are now being brought to our very doors—even the very bones which lay bleaching and wast-

ing their virtues upon the desert air, are now made by the most simple process, the most powerful of all renovators of these soils.

It only remains for us to take advantage of these things, and throwing all prejudice to the winds, satisfy ourselves by actual experience of their virtue.—This once accomplished, these old fields will again blossom as the rose—the credit of our State will be maintained—dire necessity will no longer compel us to sever old ties and associations to search for more productive soils, in less congenial climates.

To accomplish this great object, the renovation of worn-out lands—and to be perfectly successful in our farming, as in every occupation in life, capital is not only desirable but necessary. Industry and skill may supply the place of capital to some extent—capital would be of little use certainly, without proper judgment in its appropriation; hence the importance of availing ourselves, as far as possible, of the experience of other people, through the agricultural publications of the day. These, in the hands of men of observation, lessen the required amount of capital—saves many useless and expensive experiments—strengthens his own perceptions, and give him the advantage of the wisdom and experience, not only of farmers of the present day, but of ages preceding—and I would therefore recommend to every farmer, that the first entry upon his expense account should be for an agricultural paper.

A floating or working capital in this country, is not looked upon as a matter of sufficient importance—the great object of an American farmer appears to be, how many broad acres his farm shall contain, not how much it shall produce him per acre, and therefore when he purchases a farm, he generally lays out the whole of his available means for the purchase of the greatest number of acres, leaving himself, if not in debt for the payment of his acres, already stripped of the very means to make it productive.

In England a certain amount of active capital is considered a "*sine qua non*" in a tenant—fifty dollars for each acre of arable land to be used as a floating capital for the purchase of stock, farming utensils, manures, &c. would be considered low. In this country, there are instances where \$100 have been expended annually in manure, upon an acre of ground, with a profit. Generally speaking, the want of success in the American farmer may be ascribed to this very great oversight—the deficiency of active capital. Whilst in England the great success of many of their tenant farmers, borne down as they are by tithes and taxes, may be accounted for, in their judiciously using so large an amount of capital for the purchase of manure, seeds, stock, &c.

As capital then is considered one of the most important elements to success, I would recommend seriously to the consideration of the American farmer, whether he could not to advantage, dispose of some of his broad acres, and apply the proceeds in bringing into more profitable cultivation, the balance of his land—and I have fixed upon \$20 for each acre of arable land as a minimum sum required. The more you employ, judiciously however, the more *expeditiously and profitably* will you resuscitate your impoverished lands.

System is the next in importance, if not the most important object for the consideration of the American farmer, if he looks forward to independence in his occupation—for in this is economy, and without economy no farmer can prosper. He should have system in the regulation of his homestead, in the selection and arrangement of his farming utensils, and stock—in the keeping of his accounts—in the feeding and watering his stock—in the milking of his cows, and his going out and coming in from work—with a perfect system he must succeed, and without it he must falter, if he does not entirely fail.

Farm accounts are absolutely necessary to carry out any system—to check expenditures in unprofitable manures, and the cultivation of unprofitable crops—aside from the satisfaction the farmer derives, in being able to know at the end of the year, what he has made or lost in this or that expenditure—it prevents imposition, and enables him so to shape his course for the ensuing year, as to avoid such experiments as have proved unprofitable the year past, and profit by the further prosecution of those that have proved lucrative.

The introduction of all labor-saving tools, should always be adopted to the extent of the farmer's means—it is a saving of capital in the saving of labor; the horse rake, for instance, which will save the labor of ten men, will, on a large scale, save to the farmer its cost daily.

Hussey's Reaper, which costs \$100, will pay for itself in one year, in a crop of 1500 to 2000 bushels in the saving of grain alone; to say nothing of the greater saving in labor, and the neatness with which it does its work. All these things should enter into the daily calculations of every tiller of the soil, and every farming utensil should be selected, with an eye not only to the cost of repairs, but the neatness and facility with which it does the work.

Manure, it has been said, is to the soil, what the blood is to the human system—and no more just remark could have been made. To expect to farm profitably without manure is as unreasonable, as to expect the pulsation of the human heart to be kept up after the blood has been extracted; and yet strange to say, how many in this country consider it a waste of time and money to use it.

The success, nay the very existence of a farmer, depends upon his making use of every means within his control, for the accumulation and economical application of his manures—he should calculate closely when he purchases foreign manures, *not only how much it increases the single crop he applies it to, but how much more his material is increased from which to make manure for the next crop.* For farming is unlike most every business in life—the more you do for it, the more you have to do with.

Having hastily examined the elements necessary to perfect success in agriculture, I will proceed to make a more practical and detailed application to the renovation of worn-out lands—in hopes that although but a feeble ray, it may help to swell the volume of light which will probably be shed upon the subject, by more practical and intelligent writers.

To prevent misapprehension in the start, I will state what I understand by the term "Worn-out Lands."

In this latitude, lands that have been impoverished by the "skinning process" of former cultivation, soil composed mostly of clay, gravel or sand, or a combination of them—little or no vegetable humus—cohesive *putry*, impervious to heat and air—destitute entirely of the sweet grasses, and incapable of producing them, and producing where there is any vegetation, running briars and poverty grasses—sometimes sedge. This presupposes the absence of all manures, and also the material from which to make it. The object of this Essay, I presume to be, to show the most expeditious and cheapest method for renovating these lands, restoring them to a degree of fertility that shall enable the proprietor to continue its improvement, whilst it affords him a support.

The first application of capital or labor after your lands are well enclosed, is to rid the soil of all superfluous moisture; any application of manure upon a soil saturated with water, whether from surface or springs, must end in disappointment and loss—under drains are to be preferred, and stone, brick or wood may be used. To determine which, must depend the cost of the article, delivered and laid in the drain, stones to be preferred, on account of their greater durability, when they can be obtained without too much cost. I have found hard burned brick to be cheaper than stone, (labor of procuring taken into account) and nearly as durable.

A complete system of draining, with diagrams, may be found in the 2d volume of the Farmer's Library, and in almost every agricultural publication. I will close this part of our work by a few remarks: The more thoroughly the work is done in the first place, (like the manuring of land)—the cheaper and more profitable will it be found in the end. If drains are to be constructed for carrying away the water from spouts or springs—they may be made from 2 to 2½ feet deep. If for draining swampy lands, the deeper you go the more effectual will it be. In many cases the water may be gotten rid of by sinking pits through the strata of clay into the gravel. In most cases, however, it will be found necessary to carry off the drains into open channels—as tiles are not made to any extent in this country, a very good substitute may be found in the hard burnt brick—sink your channel 9 inches wide at the bottom, set two bricks on edge lengthwise and cover them with two bricks laid flat across the top, leaving an opening of four inches, and cover them with earth taken from the ditch, laying the sod upon the bricks. This will take about 80 bricks to the perch, which, as the arch brick are only required will cost from 40 to 45 cents per perch. In some places where the bottom of the drain is quicksand, it will be necessary to lay down a plank—but in most cases this will not be necessary—and the work may be done with great facility and dispatch, cheaper probably than cost of labor in pounding up stone for the purpose, and quite as effectual.

This important object being accomplished, the ground should be cleared of all roots and rubbish that would interfere with the plough, as no after culture will compensate for the first being bunglingly done.

Ploughing.—To do this work the most effectually, your working cattle should be strong, well fed, and well caparisoned, and not less than three in number, and your plough of the most approved construction, "Woodcock's," "Prouty & Mears," or "Sinclair's,"—with this establishment, the soil should be stirred to the depth of eight inches or more, as in this case there is no danger of the surface soil being impaired by any admixture with the substrata—care should be taken not to cut more furrow slice, than will cover well and expose the greatest surface to

the action of the air and frost, and more regard should be had to quality than the quantity of work done.

Deep ploughing is essential in the renovation of these "worn-out lands." In many cases the soil may be much improved with this process alone, without the aid of manure—and certainly cannot be injured by bringing to the surface a new soil and exposing it to the action of the frost and atmosphere.

Trench ploughing I prefer to subsoiling on these worn-out lands. The effect of deep cultivation is evident where I have my covered drains—the course of these drains can be traced through the fields in lines, by the greater luxuriance of the vegetation.

If it is intended to cultivate a spring crop, the ploughing should be done in the fall, on these old fields, leaving as much soil exposed to the action of the air and frost as possible. If for wheat, it should be done in the spring or very early summer, and harrowed well down after the plough. Harrowing is one of the most important operations, and one not sufficiently looked after by the master himself. The object of the workman seems to be to make his harrow cover as much ground as possible, leaving many places untouched and all badly done. A few hints on this subject may not be out of place, which, if attended to, I am confident will amply reward the husbandman.

The usual method of harrowing is to follow the plough in converging circles to the centre of the land—this is wrong. The harrow should commence in the centre of the land where the plough finishes, and harrow lengthwise the furrow, in diverging circles from the centre, lapping the harrow at least half way, exactly the reverse of the usual method. This it will be found, instead of harrowing up the sod, smooths it down, covers it better, gives the cattle a better surface to walk upon, requires less power, and does the work more effectually, as any one will readily discover, who will give it a trial.

Manures.—To decide upon the kind of manure to be used, and the manner it shall be applied, depends upon so many contingent circumstances, that it would be impossible to lay down any rule that shall suit all circumstances.

I will proceed to give my own experience in the use of them, which has been pretty extensive, some detailed statements of which have been published in former communications, and may be referred to as illustrating more fully what I have to say on this subject in this Essay.

The first great object of every farmer, should be to make and apply to the utmost extent of all his resources, his stable manure. So much has been said, and so many useful hints published as to the best method of converting all suitable substances formed upon the farm into manures, that it would seem almost superfluous to lengthen this communication with any notions of my own—as it is of so much im-

portance, however, too much cannot be urged upon the attention of the farmer on the subject.

Judging from the remarks I hear in my daily intercourse with farmers and planters, I am convinced that more attention is paid to the quantity than the quality of the manure made. Many are under the impression that stock is not necessary for converting large quantities of straw and fodder into good manure, and that more can be made by depositing into a pen large quantities of litter to be trampled upon by a few half starved animals, than any other way by the same number of cattle. This may be the fact as far as quantity is concerned, but *beyond a certain amount*, the litter might be spread at once upon the surface of your fields, and the expense and trouble of two cartings saved. There is little or no virtue in manure made in this way—and I have seen hauled out and deposited upon fields such quantities of this bleached and wasted material as would make rich five times the quantity of land, had the same material been converted into manure by regularly littering down the same cattle in good stables, spreading over small quantities of plaster daily, and protecting the manure from the wasteful effects of the rains and sun—to say nothing of the great gain to your cattle—poor half starved animals cannot make rich manure. Convert one-fourth the same material in this way to manure, and compost it with the balance of your straw and fodder, mixing ashes, suds, and such materials as are daily wasted around your kitchens and houses, and you may quadruple the actual value of your manure.

The farmer must rely upon his own judgment, as to the kind of manure he shall use, in his first essay upon "worn-out lands"—as the cost of procuring the different manures must vary with every location.

Leached or unleached ashes, when they can be procured and delivered upon the ground at \$11 to \$12 per hundred bushels, I have found as *prompt* in their action as any of the concentrated manures, and more durable. Next to lime or bone-dust they are certainly the most lasting in their effects—from 100 to 150 bushels per acre should be applied for a dressing.

Bone Dust may be considered the next, if not the most profitable manures, on account of their prompt and durable action, but they cannot be procured, to any extent—in fact for a long time I have not been able to get them at all.

Guano may be used with entire success in the first process in the renovation of these worn-out lands, either for wheat, corn, oats, or roots of any kind. My root crop raised this year from guano alone, is heavy—some of the mangel wurtzel measuring 28 inches round, above the ground—350 lbs. Peruvian at \$2.62 per hundred, or 450 lbs. Patagonia, at \$2 per hundred, is a good dressing, and will pay back in the first crop, with interest on these old fields.

There may be ingredients in some soils, which will neutralize the effects of guano, and exist in such small proportions that no chemical analysis can detect them. I have never met with soils of this character—repeated trials must be the only plan for ascertaining such cases. With regard to its durability, much has been said, and many speculations upon the subject—my experience in the use of it has not been in small doses of a few hundred pounds, but as large as 25 to 28 tons in one year, and always with marked effect, and entire satisfaction. If you except lime, bone-dust, and ashes, no manures that I have tried will show any lasting benefits, without they be followed up with further improvement. No one will question, I presume, that if an application of guano, will raise the product of worn-out lands from 5 to 20 bushels of wheat per acre, and ripen it to maturity, if clover seed be sown in the spring upon the wheat, the clover will take root and flourish—and if the straw from this 20 bushels of wheat, be converted into manure, and put back upon the field or even spread over the clover in the winter, that the benefit from the clover and material thus applied must be felt to a very great extent, even though the guano may evaporate, when you cut off the first crop. Clover will grow from such application, and if plastered will improve, and improve the soil. Any failure to derive a *permanent benefit* from an application of any of these concentrated manures, however volatile they may be, must be charged to want of proper use of the additional material, placed in your hands through their agency.

Poudrette—I have found a good manure, (when unadulterated) sown with grass seeds, and rolled in with them. Six barrels per acre put on this way, on wheat, where guano has been ploughed under, will set timothy, orchard grass and clover well.

Lime, the greatest and most lasting improver of nearly all soils, and one most to be depended upon, should always follow, upon all grass lays, the fall after the first crop has been removed. 100 bushels per acre spread upon the sod, to remain for two years, is in my opinion the most judicious application of lime. I prefer this method of applying lime, to the slower, but not less certain mode of applying it to the surface of the old fields, to remain from three to five years without being cultivated. First, because you hasten your improvement, which is always gratifying, and by furnishing the vegetable matter for the lime to act upon, you can increase the quantity applied to advantage, and get a more speedy return for your outlay.

Men of large capital may renovate these worn-out lands with a profit, by the use of lime alone, as has been fully demonstrated upon a magnificent scale in this State—applying the lime at the rate of 100 bushels per acre to the old fields to lay 5 years, to be followed up by another 100 bushels per acre, and at the end of the next five years you may calculate

to get a 10 per cent. interest for the money thus invested. For men of small capital, the only possible plan is to commence with the highly concentrated manures, and follow up with the lime as your means will allow—never losing sight of the fact, that your lime must go on sooner or later.

The manner of applying these different manures which I have followed, and always with entire satisfaction, is as follows: If there are any gauls or washed places in the field, cover them well with stable manure, if you have it, or the richest woods' earth or ditch banks you can procure previous to breaking. Then fallow the whole field deeply, say 8 inches—roll the ground to break the clods, if stiff soil, and follow with the harrow as directed. If ashes are to be used, when the ground is thoroughly prepared for seeding, throw them on broad-cast, and plant or sow your seed, and harrow all in together. If guano be used—just before seeding, spread your guano, and cross plough or cultivate it in, say 4 inches deep or more, sow your grain, harrow and roll. If poudrette be applied on same field to set your grass seeds more effectually, sow your poudrette after cross ploughing your guano in, sow your seed and harrow all in together.

Bone Dust to be applied in same manner as the ashes or poudrette, upon the surface.

Lime.—Spread your lime broadcast on the clover sod, to lay two years before being worked.

Plaster should always follow all the above applications in the spring of the year, upon the young clover, at the rate of one bushel per acre—March is the most suitable month.

This carries us forward in the stage of our improvement to a period, that if we have been judicious in our application of the manures, and thorough in the cultivation of our grounds, we may begin to dispense with foreign aid and live upon our own resources, and adopt the self-renovating principle.

And now, Mr. Editor, it appears to me that however we may differ, as to the effect or permanency of this or that manure—or the best method of accumulating or applying manures, or the most judicious rotation of crops, or the most profitable crops to be raised, there can be but one opinion as to the fact, that if we expect large returns for our labor, we must be liberal in our treatment of the soil, liberal in the application of manures and seeds, and liberal in the labor we bestow in the cultivation of our crops—and always bear in mind that the cost of producing 5 bushels of wheat or other grain per acre on poor lands, is the same in labor and seed, as to produce 25 or 40 on land in high condition.

In following up this improvement, much will depend upon your location, and facility in getting to market. If it be desirable to convert your farm into a dairy or stock farm, and consume upon your farm its vegetable productions, sending them to market in

the shape of butter, milk, cheese, or beef—the renovating process goes on gradually and naturally, care being used in collecting, making and applying your manures.

If it be desirable to convert it into a grain, tobacco, or hay farm, the soil must receive back in some shape, the ingredients you rob it of, by removing these crops. The Mississippi bottoms will not long stand a course of cropping without any return. The annual inundation by the river cannot prevent the deterioration under the skinning process.

The German flats on the Mohawk river, New York, is a melancholy evidence of this fact—30 to 40 years ago, they used to cart their manure on to the ice in the winter that it might be floated out of their way in the spring, as the land was too rich—now a very scanty growth of broom corn is the result.

A proper rotation of crops upon your grain growing farm is very important. The soil must have rest and food, and where a judicious system is adopted, and all means taken to collect, make and apply your manures, improvement will follow. A good rotation in my opinion is, corn or roots with all your long manure—oats next, followed with wheat and clover to remain in grass two years—your foreign manures (if used in the second course of cropping) to be applied to your wheat and clover—using plaster on your clover in the spring.

If the manure from your own resources will not cover the whole ground to be cropped, foreign aid must be resorted to—which may always be done to profit.

It may be satisfactory to your readers (should you deem this worthy of publication to know from what data, I derive my information—and although it is disagreeable to me, as it must be to every one to be thrusting his own affairs before the public, yet, having had the most accurate accounts kept with the farm, and the result being entirely satisfactory, I feel that the cause in which we are all so much engaged demands this sacrifice at my hands.

I have therefore had prepared an accurate tabular statement of the whole outlay under different classifications, as also the receipts since my first commencement to improve this farm, from which I am enabled to present the following facts:

This farm contains 1092 acres, 700 acres of which have been fenced and improved, and the balance is in wood.

To show the effect of manure properly applied, I give below the amount expended annually in foreign manures, which with all the manures that could be created on the farm by the increased product, caused by this application of mineral manures, amounting in 1847 to near 1000 two horse loads, were regularly applied (all the hay and straw being consumed upon the farm). The present year very little foreign manure is required.

	Manures.	Grass Seeds.	
1841—Purchased	\$347.63	\$113.41	Sold in value, nothing
1842	" 734.80	63.49	" \$507.50
1843	" 262.60	155.83	" 134.41
1844	" 123.63	457.30	" 2796.30
1845	" 1124.85	236.97	" 3792.51
1846	" 3035.23	732.14	" 11696.99
1847	" 2546.02	519.50	" 14777.02
	\$8,174.76	\$2,268.64	\$34,773.93

Total amount of receipts for the 7 years, \$34,773.93
To which must be added the wood sold from the clearing up of the fields, 1,495.41

	Total receipts, exclusive of buildings,	
The following exhibit will show the entire outlay,	\$36,269.34	
Expenditure for manures,	\$8,174.76	
" " seeds,	2,268.64	
" " labor on farm, fencing, ditching, under draining, grubbing and cleaning 700 acres,	18,053.77	
Other expenses, overseer, salaries, trav- elling, blacksmith and wheelwright bills, and materials for draining, &c. 5,866.70	34,363.87	
	\$1,905.47	

Leaving a balance after paying all expenses for manures, seeds, fencing, ditching, grubbing, cleaning and improving 700 acres of barren land in 7 years, \$1,905.47. The improved value of the land being an additional gain.

This statement is exclusive of all out-lays for land and buildings, and interest on same, farming utensils and stock, as those items are according to the fancy of the proprietor, and are supposed to be worth cost, and cannot be charged against the improvement of the land. The actual cost of which, it is the object of this communication to show.

DATE	Manure.	Labor.	Seeds.	Expenses	TOTAL.	DATE	Milk.	Rents.	Hauling	Live Stock	Wood	Inven- tory.	TOTAL.
1841	\$347.63	\$752.74	\$113.41	\$285.87		1841							
1842	734.80	969.60	63.49	265.86		1842		\$465.00	\$12.50	\$30.00			\$507.50
1843	262.60	1134.92	155.83	428.42		1843		243.50	614.05	966.86			1,344.41
1844	123.63	1569.36	457.30	542.96		1844		260.75	2435.45	100.00			2,796.20
1845	1124.85	1890.47	226.97	234.67		1845		588.42	3134.09				3,722.51
1846	3035.23	5304.67	732.14	1214.94		1846	\$1394.67	845.45	8952.87	433.10			11,626.99
1847	2546.02	6412.01	519.50	2873.96		1847	2652.61	691.00	4817.66	1025.95	854.50	3736.00	14,777.02
	\$8174.76	18053.77	\$2268.64	\$5866.70	\$34,363.87								
To improvements, embracing Barn, Tenant Houses, Fences, &c.													
To 1092 acres land, original cost, \$10,361.62													
To interest from average time of purchase, from 1st Jan. 1845 to 1st Jan. 1848,													
To amount paid for implements, cost, freight, &c. included,													
To amount paid for live stock, cost, freight, expenses, &c. included,													
Balance down,													

WORK FOR NOVEMBER.

It may be opportune to the occasion of our present month's conversation with our patrons, to notice a fact which we saw stated in that excellent journal, the "*Marlboro' Gazette*," published in Prince George's county, Maryland. It is this:—that the planters of that county have, the present season, *seeded more Wheat* than in any former one, it being their intention, in future, to cultivate *less Tobacco* than heretofore. This necessity has been forced upon tobacco planters by the ruinous prices which tobacco has been at for several successive years, the large quantity remaining on hand, unsold, not only of the last year's growth, but of former ones also, as well as the poor prospects ahead of improved markets.

The determination of *partially retiring* from the culture of this heretofore great staple of Prince George's county, we look upon, under the circumstances, as an act of wise forecast,—for owing to the disturbed state of Europe—the depression in trade there—the uncertainty of its being speedily bettered—the war of classes which there predominates, and the consequent want of confidence in the men of wealth, we cannot, for the life of us, conceive any possible grounds on which to form a belief, that any great melioration in the tobacco trade can reasonably be expected for some years to come. But while we concede the character of wisdom and forecast, to this *partial retirement* from the culture of tobacco, we are not sure, that the universal adoption of *wheat* as a substitute will prove equally wise. The *surplus* product of that grain, beyond the ordinary home and foreign demands, is already immensely great—the supply of the present year, beyond any *reasonable demand*, we think will largely exceed thirty millions of bushels—so that, unless famine should again visit the powers of Europe, prices will range low, while much of the surplus product will have to remain over, undisposed of.—This has been our view for a considerable time—we have seen nothing lately calculated to induce us to change our opinion—and hence it is, that we have repeatedly urged upon our patrons to thresh their grain, and have it in a condition to be able to avail themselves of every rise in the market.

We have ever been the advocate of the *division* of labor, and opposed to whole districts of country, or whole counties, making any *single product* their entire *money-crop*: we have ever considered it safest, in this connection,—to use a trite phrase—to have more than one string to one's bow—in a word, to diversify the products of the farm—to rely on *several*, instead of a *single crop* for its moneyed resources.

It is obvious to us, that both *Tobacco* and *Wheat* is grown to an extent not to leave any reasonable hope for remunerating prices; it, therefore, becomes a matter of profound consideration, to what next, the LANDED INTERESTS SHALL TURN THEIR ATTENTION? And this question is worthy to be mooted and discussed at our approaching State Agricultural Fair, for it involves the prosperity, comfort and happiness of every man in the State who gets his living out of the earth. Without assuming the right to forestall the action of the great minds that may, and doubtless will, be congregated upon that occasion, we may claim permission to volunteer the remark, that every tiller of the soil should so diversify the products of his farm or plantation, as to furnish all the supplies of provisions needed, as well as all the coarser fabrics of clothing, in order that he may profit by the wise adage of Franklin, which inculcates the doc-

trine, that "every penny saved is two-pence gained." The difference between *national and household economy*, consists alone in quantity; the same principle regulates both. The nation which buys more than it can pay for with the products of its industry, will soon find the *balance* lamentably against it, and so, also, will the individual find, if he purchases more than he can pay for with the surplus products of his labor, that, in a few years, the balance will be against him. These propositions are too self-evident to need illustration, as every one's good sense will suggest both the argument and the inevitable deduction to be drawn from the premises.

Without desiring to dictate to public opinion, or direct agricultural labor, we would respectfully suggest, whether the raising of sheep for wool and mutton—the raising of beeves for the shambles, could not be extended with pecuniary advantage? Whether the growth of barley could not be increased, with a prospect of profit? So, also, with regard to buckwheat? Whether *butter* and *cheese* dairies would not afford reasonable prospects of gain? And whether, the *castor oil bean*—the *palma christi*—and *sun-flower* seed could not be profitably grown, to be converted into oils, for medicinal and domestic purposes? If it be said that the two latter branches of agricultural labor would involve expenditures for mills to convert the beans and seed into oils, the answer is at hand, that neighborhoods of ten miles square might club together, and bear the expense of a mill, to be centrally located, and thus would the expense to each be trifling.

We throw out these suggestions with the view of awakening public attention, and having discharged what we conceive to be our duty, we shall await the effect of our well-intended remarks, with that philosophic spirit which is ever the shield of the man who desires to benefit his fellow man. Commending the preceding views to the kindly regards of our readers, we shall endeavor to specify such objects as should receive attention during the present month:

ON THE FARM.

Accumulation of Manures.—Among all the labors of the farm, *this should stand first*; for say what we may to the contrary, no farmer can cultivate his farm to profit, who is negligent in supplying his corn, root, and truck crops, generally, with manure. Let us cultivate such crops as we may, devote to them as much labor as we may, unless we *feed* them with a liberal measure, their products will be meagre and unrequiting; so also will be the crops that are to follow them in successive rotations, as the ground-work of their *feed* is generally laid in the preparation of the ground for corn and other hoe crops. As to the sources whence the materials are to be drawn to make manure, we have so often specified them, that it is almost useless to repeat them here, and we will only speak of them in general terms—*peat, marsh mud, scrapings of the lanes, roads and yards, mould and leaves from the woods, the mould from head-lands, fence corners and fence-sides, weeds and grass from the marshes and elsewhere, corn-stalks, offal of every kind susceptible of being rotted*—each and all of these form materials for making composts; and if gathered and formed into heaps to decompose, will make excellent manure by next spring. The best disposition that could be made of them, would be to spread them over your cow yards and hog pens. Placed there through the fall and winter, they would, by spring time, form a body of the most enriching manure, and be worth, pound for pound, fully as much, if not more than so much stable manure. Perhaps there are farmers

who, after reading this, will say, we have no time for such employment—no hands to be thus employed! To such we would say, that your interest would be very sensibly promoted by appropriating two hands and a team for six weeks to such work—that the force thus employed, during the period named, would enable you to make three bushels of corn for every one you will make if you neglect our advice. To cultivate corn without manure, is killing to man and beast, while it actually robs the farmer's pocket, and finally drives him to sell his homestead and go among strangers, to encounter, in his age, the hardships of a frontier life. No farmer ought to consider that he has fulfilled his duty, who does not, in the course of the year, make *five* double-horse loads of manure for every cleared acre of land on his place—that will give him 20 loads to the acre for his corn, besides a supply for his potatoes, turnips, and truck, generally.

Liming.—If your land has been long in culture without having been limed, you may conclude that it requires a dose of lime. If it be very poor, 15, 20, or 25 bushels to the acre will be enough for a *first* application. Indeed, *ten* bushels to the acre will be of essential benefit. If you design the field for spring culture, the lime should be spread as soon as you can conveniently spare the time to do so.

If you have *marl*, you may spread on such land as we have described, about 75 bushels to the acre.

Compost for Light Sandy Land.—Ten double horse cart loads of clay and ten of barn-yard manure, will do more permanent good than 20 loads of manure without the clay. The clay and manure should be shoveled well ever so as to incorporate the one with the other.

Corn Cobs for Milch Cows.—As these contain a very sensible portion of nutritive matter besides other substances of value, you should grind them into cob-meal for your milch cows. To increase their value, add to every peck of cobs a quart of meal or half gallon of bran to each mess for a cow, which should be either boiled or steamed into slop for your cows. The proportions we herein name, with the addition of cut hay or straw, say a half bushel at each meal, will not only keep a cow in good condition, but if she be in milk will increase its quantity as well as improve its quality. A cow, besides these slop messes, should be night and morning served with long food, as hay, fodder, or straw in suitable quantities, say ten lbs. at each meal. If such course of treatment were to be observed towards these generous creatures there would be less falling off in their milking properties through the winter. As to *fault* in short milking, we have never laid it to the cow, but to the neglect of her owner, for we have ever laid it down as a self-evident proposition, that he who expects a cow to give any considerable quantity of milk in winter, must provide her generously with succulent food, as no cow can secrete milk unless she receive such material as will enable her to form the delicious fluid which so delights the human palate and contributes so largely towards human sustenance.

Corn Husks.—These, if cut and mixed with cow slops, will be found an excellent food in winter, and should be preserved for such purpose.

Corn Stalks.—These, when cut into inch pieces and mixed with meal or bran, and boiled or steamed, make not only a strong, but excellent food for milch cows. They should, therefore, be *early* cut, hauled in, and preserved from the weather. A ton of stalks thus fed will be found equally as good as a ton of ordinary hay.

Roots of all kinds.—If these are not already stored away, they should be taken up before being injured by the *frost*, and put away beyond the reach of that element. As few cellars keep roots well, it may, perhaps be best to bury them in the open air, in piles of, say 50 bushels each. The spot selected should be a *dry* one—and should be strown between each layer, and when raised a few feet high, say four, the pile should be covered with earth from nine to ten inches thick, in a cone-like form, so as to cast off the water. Around each pile of roots, drains should be formed, so as to prevent the water from settling around them.

Milch Cows.—As we have already treated of these animals, in connection with corn-cobs, we will content ourselves with a general remark or two. *Milch cows* should be moderately *warmly housed*, and bedded, be regularly supplied with good succulent food thrice a day, receive fresh water as often, be curried daily, and *salted* at least twice a week. A mixture of equal parts of *lime*, *finely sifted ashes* and *salt*, will answer a better purpose than salt alone,—and, as it is cheaper, should be preferred. As the pastures have doubtless become scant, the *cows* should be fed twice a day, night and morning, with such quantities of hay as will make up the deficiency of the pastures, it being very important that they be carried into their winter quarters in good condition. All that we have said in connection with cows giving milk, will hold good with regard to *in-calf cows* and *heifers*.

Young Stock of all kinds.—These should be housed under good warm sheds open to the south or east, and if bedded, so much the better—they should receive three feeds of good hay or fodder and a small one of grain, a day—have access to a yard, be watered before each meal, and salted twice a week.—The currycomb or a whip of straw, if daily applied, would add much to their cleanliness, health and comfort.

Working Horses, Mules and Oxen.—These animals, as they contribute so largely towards the comforts and pleasures of the homestead, should receive kind treatment from their masters. They should be provided with comfortable stabling, well bedded stalls, be curried and rubbed down at least twice a day—have proper allowances of grain and hay, morning, noon, and night, be watered just before each meal, and have each an ounce of salt three times a week; or an equal quantity of a mixture of *salt*, *finely sifted hickory ashes* and *lime*—oyster-shell lime best.

It sometimes happens that working horses and mules have difficulty in urinating. When this occurs, if 2 ozs. of dried *yarrow* be mixed in their feed two or three times in succession, a cure will generally be effected. Should the yarrow not, however, effect a cure, give the animal a bolus comprised of 1 oz. of castile soap and 2 drachms of saltpetre, two mornings in succession, fasting.

As a matter of *economy*, all grain fed to horses and other stock, should be chopt—it goes farther by 25 per cent.—is more acceptable to the animals, induces them to take on fat better, is more conducive to the preservation of their strength, easier digested, and as a resulting consequence, more preservative of health.

Sheep.—No one should undertake to keep a flock of sheep who does not provide them with good shedding for their winter quarters—straw for bedding, 3 lbs. of good hay, each, per day, or its equivalent in other food. The sheep should be allowed the use of a yard, be watered thrice a day, and have recourse to salt daily—pine boughs should be provided

for them to browse upon weekly—in the absence of these mix *tar* with their salt.

Fattening Hogs.—When the mast and nuts of your woods shall have been consumed, pen up your hogs to fatten; provide them good dry warm apartments in the pen to *sleep* in separate from the part you feed them in. When you first take them up, give each hog a tea-spoonful of flour of sulphur in a mess of meal, daily, for a week. If you design to commence feeding with pumpkins, apples or roots, let them be cooked—they go farther and are better for the hogs. Thrice a day give them fresh water, and once a week give them a drink of soap-suds during the first three weeks of their being penned up. Each pen should be provided with a *rubbing-post*. Rotten wood, charcoal and ashes should be generally in the pen in a trough where the hogs could eat of it at pleasure.

While you are engaged in fattening your hogs do not omit to furnish them with plenty of mould, leaves and weeds to work up into *manure* for you, for of a truth they are among the best of manufacturers of that article known. Twenty well sized hogs would convert half that number of loads of earth or mould into good fertilizing manure every ten days, and in that time mix it up more accurately than the best hand on your farm, and especially well would they perform that service, if you were to strew grains of corn over the surface daily to induce them to use their snouts. As true economy consists in attending to small as well as large matters, no provident farmer should omit to attend to these hints, and the best and surest way to ensure their being attended to, is to personally see that they are done, as the master's *presence* is a great stimulator of fidelity.

Picking and preserving apples—Pick your apples by hand. When gathered deposit them in an airy room to sweat. When they have gone through this process, wipe them with cloth, carefully pack them away in barrels, head them up, and place them in a dry cellar.

Draining and Ditching.—If you have any marshy or wet grounds that you wish to render fit for tillage, you should improve the present month to make your ditches and drains.

Cider-making.—Get through with your cider-making as speedily as possible, as the apples yield more juice *now* than they will a few weeks hence, and consequently will make more cider. See that your casks and barrels are thoroughly washed, and fumigated with a cloth dipped in melted brimstone.

Apple Butter Making.—As apple butter is a very agreeable sauce for the table, as well as an article of sale, attend to having a supply made for both purposes. Small as the *income* from its sales may be, it will still be worth attending to; for, as the world is the aggregation of small particles, so are fortunes to be realized only by those who *attend* to little as well as large sources of wealth.

Threshing out Grain.—Having first had your granary thoroughly cleaned out, by being scoured with hot ley, and dried and aired, go to work and have all your grain threshed out and stored away. At a period like this, when prices are up one week and down the next, every farmer should consider it to be his duty, to place himself in a position to avail himself of every *rise* in the price of his great staple products.

Fall Ploughing.—As stiff clays are improved by being exposed to the action of frost, all such lands should have the advantage of fall and winter ploughing, but they *never* should be ploughed while in a wet state. The furrow-slice should be lapped.

Cow Sheds.—We have already reminded you of the advantage of keeping your cattle under good, dry, warm sheds, and will now barely observe, that if you have not already erected them, you should set about the work and complete them without delay. Cattle protected from the inclemency of the weather, can be subsisted upon one-fourth less food, so that *interest*, that great lever in human actions, comes in to aid humanity in her appeal in behalf of the poor beasts whom God has confided to your charge and keeping. We have read the human heart to but little purpose, if any man could sleep in his bed through a winter night's storm, were he to reflect that his stock were exposed to its pitiless peltings, as his reason would tell him that they felt the suffering as keenly as would he, himself, were he forced, like them, to endure the descending sleet and drifting snow. As Providence has, in his goodness, placed the beasts of the field within the control of man, in all christian duty he is bound in gratitude to treat them kindly and well, for in no other way can he acquit himself of the responsibilities of his stewardship. The gift was one of use and not of abuse.

Fire-Wood.—Being ourself a dear lover of a good warm fire-side in winter, and anxious that all God's creatures shall participate in the same comfort as we do ourself, we feel particularly anxious that you have cut and hauled in, as early as possible, a full supply of wood, not only for the *great-house*, but for the quarters also. The inconvenience of hauling through the bad roads of winter, will at once suggest the propriety of our advice, and, as we hope, spur you on to the performance of this necessary duty at the earliest possible period.

Wagons, Carts and Gearing.—Examine these, have all necessary repairs made, in order that they may be ready when required for service. If you have not one already, have a house erected to keep them in.

Tools and Implements of Husbandry.—Every thing of this description, not in use, should be thoroughly examined, and such as may need it, should be repaired and put away under cover.

Fences.—These should all be examined, panel by panel, and every defective post, rail or board, replaced by a new one. Good fences make quiet, well-behaved stock, and not unfrequently tend to prevent breaches in the friendship of neighbors. At this season of the year, when the pastures are denuded of every thing edible, and when the forests no longer afford wherewithal to satisfy the appetite, the stock are very apt to look out for weak and defective points in the line of one's fence, as an empty stomach in man or *beast* is apt to make either the one or the other sharp of sight, and as the latter, for want of education, is not governed by moral restraints, we repeat our injunction—*examine and repair your fences.*

Corn Houses.—Before you put your present year's crop of corn into the corn house, have it thoroughly cleaned out, washed with *ley*, and afterwards white-washed. Examine well for and effectually stop up every rat hole.

Poultry Houses—management of laying hens.—The former should be thoroughly cleansed and white-washed. To ensure your hens to lay through the winter, provide them now under cover accessible to them at all times, a load of sand and gravel and a small parcel of old mortar broken fine. Occasionally through the winter, mix pulverized chalk in dough and give it them; so, also, you must occasionally give them messes of fresh meat, chopt fine. If they have not

access to running water, you must attend to their being supplied daily with fresh water. Their food must be alternated, but given them regularly three times a day—morning, noon, and 4 o'clock, P. M. Corn, buckwheat, oats, and corn-meal dough and boiled potatoes are the best kinds of feed for fowls—occasionally cabbage leaves or turnips cut into very small pieces should be given them. If mixed with their dough feed, they would probably eat these vegetables the more readily.

Setting out Orchards.—This is the time for such work; and as every farm should have a good orchard of apples and other varieties of choice fruits, we would advise every farmer, who is without them, to supply his deficiency this fall. He should select the best kinds, and buy of a nurseryman of established reputation.

For the plan of preparing and manuring the ground, as well as that of digging the holes and setting out and managing the trees, we refer to pages 130-31, vol. 3.

In closing our monthly remarks, we tender our best wishes for the health, prosperity and happiness of every husbandman throughout our land. But before we close our paragraph, we will improve the occasion, by calling upon FARMERS and PLANTERS every where, to organize and patronize Agricultural Clubs and Societies, in their respective districts and counties. Upon the PLANTERS and FARMERS of MARYLAND, we especially desire to prefer the request: that they come forth as one man to the aid of the MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—it is worthy of all their support, and if properly sustained—if sustained with a will worthy of Marylanders—will reflect lasting honors upon our State.

CORN CULTURE.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. EDITOR: In looking over your last number, I discovered an article on the cultivation of Corn, which attracted my attention, as our views on the action of manure somewhat differ. As to the manner in which corn should be cultivated after planting, every farmer of experience knows season, soil and climate cause material variation. In the thorough and deep breaking of ground, unless it be sand, I presume there is but one opinion entertained by intelligent farmers. Our course pursued by Caroline farmers, is to break ground as soon as the frost will admit in March, commonly; but I prefer April, unless the ground be very dry for March. We plant generally in April, from first to last; those who plant first, are not likely to manure most. We then first use the drag harrow, to level from the plough; the second time some of us use cultivators, some duck-bills, as we call them, and some flook from the beginning, to avoid the expense of other implements. After two or three harrowings, we cross plough, as we term it, at which time the manure mostly spread lengthwise, the list is scattered to and fro, some up, some down, below the surface; and it is here our issue joins, as you, sir, and many more of acknowledged mental abilities, contend that the fertilizing properties of manure evaporate when exposed to the air and summer's sun. But, sir, I, for one, maintain that the strength of manure does not waste by contact with the sun or wind. (A.) I give a case in point, which has been under my immediate observation the

present season, as well as for many seasons past.—Last May I hauled out and spread up and down the list, not on the hill, as some do, all my remaining surplus manure, as I have done for several years, with good effect; the season proved to be as dry as ever known in this county, till after wheat harvest, and extremely cool; my corn, of course, grew none from the effect of the manure, and some, in the bottoms, finally died, the worm preying severely on the little left. I became so discouraged, I thought I should have to abandon my favorite course of top-dressing; but, about the 6th to 10th of July, the rains fell in abundance, and, soaking the manure thus applied to the roots of the corn, it soon became manifest the strength was not lost; but so admirably has it improved, I am now satisfied it will make more corn in proportion than that ploughed in the ground.

I have two prominent reasons for using manure as a top dressing, which I am sure meets the approbation of some of the best land improvers of the Eastern Shore: First, I verily believe the longer the manure can be detained on the surface, the more nutriment is imparted to the ground and whatever may be growing therein. Again, our manure will go much further applied in this way, and enable the land to produce more clover, which is admitted, on all hands, to be the main spring to improve land with speed and certainty. Now, I am free to admit that manure ploughed under the list, and kept there through the season, will do first rate for one crop of corn, which, according to my experience, is about the last you see of it. The rule may work well for those who can raise manure sufficient to apply to the whole of their crop, every year, as many of the Bay-side farmers of Talbot county, by cultivating small fields, may do. But we, on fresh water, have our lime or shell to buy and haul, at great expense; therefore, we have to make the most we can of a little. My course of improvement has been to get what shell lime I could, and mix it with compost in a standing cow pen, which I keep all the year for that purpose. The manure thus raised, is of excellent quality—makes good ground, good wheat, and good crops, so far as it goes; but the process is slow. Now, sir, it is here I wish to solicit the advice of any one in possession of the information, who will be so kind as to impart it, whether, in their judgment, I could improve my land faster by going into the stone-lime burning at once. (B.) This I feel a strong inclination to do; but fear, lest the expenditure of money, without return, might prove a sinking fund. My reason for doubting is this: I have seen considerable time used in my neighborhood, with little or no effect, but do not think it was wisely managed, as it was spread on very poor land, tilled in the ordinary three field system, the worst, in my opinion, ever devised, and no clover sown. (C.)

In conclusion, I will state the kind of soil I wish to improve, by liming or otherwise, which is mostly stiff white and yellow clay, and most excellent wheat land, when improved, some of which is heavily set in sedge. Such land, lime is said to act well upon. You will please answer my inquiries, as I am writing not for controversy, but for information, which induced me to subscribe for the American Farmer.

Most respectfully, WM. J. PRATT.
Caroline County, E. S., Md.

A. Our correspondent has good authority for his opinion, that manure applied to the surface, does not lose in virtue by evaporation from sun and air.

The late Gen. Emory, of this State, a highly intelligent gentleman and successful observant farmer—the late Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, a gentleman of equal intelligence and distinction, besides many others whom we could name, for whose judgment we have the highest respect, entertained the same opinion, and, what was better, practiced upon it.—But, notwithstanding the force of authority, we have remained incredulous as to the correctness of the belief of these gentlemen. In this, there is nothing strange, as it is but natural that men should differ, and draw very different conclusions from the same premises. From our own limited experience, we have felt justified in giving a preference to the plan of ploughing in the manure; and we are very certain that, in a series of years, it will prove the best and most economical way, and, in any event, prove the most permanently beneficial to the soil.

The fact which our correspondent cites, is a strong one, and would appear conclusive, as far as a single crop goes; but he who goes to the trouble of accumulating and applying manure to his land, should look to the future as well as the present.

B. We have ever been of opinion that *oyster shell* lime is fully as good, *pound for pound*, as stone lime. If the former lime be burnt from *fresh shells*, we should, in an equality of weight, prefer it, as it comprises salts not to be found in stone lime, and is generally richer in the carbonate of lime than lime made from much of the stone burnt.

C. Lime applied to *very poor land*, where it may be presumed there is little or no organic matter—no vegetable remains, unaccompanied with *clover*, is certainly the most injudicious manner of applying it, if not entirely useless. *Clover culture* and *liming* should go hand in hand, or the melioration of the soil will not justify the expense. Had we a very poor piece of land that we wished to lime, to make assurance doubly sure, we would turn in two green crops—say two crops of Buckwheat—each of which we would plaster, before applying the lime. We say *buckwheat*, because that crop, aided by plaster, will grow well on poor land, as it derives much of its food from the atmosphere, though oats, peas, or any other crop, sown broadcast, that will grow in such soil, will answer.

The marsh mud, which abounds in the locality of our correspondent, will be found an admirable staple for a compost in which to use lime.

ADULTERATION OF ASHES.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR: In your remarks (July No.) upon the experiments made by Mr. Carmichael with ashes, you appear to be at a loss to account for the failure. Permit me to suggest a cause that may more satisfactorily account for the disappointment, viz: Our ash collectors who are engaged in the trade, apart from the soap factories, get all kinds of trashy stuff; but many collect coal ashes alone, from which they sift the cinders for burning shell lime, after which

they adulterate and disguise the coal ashes, and dispose of it at 7 or 8 cents per bushel. I was informed by a lime burner on the Spring Gardens that he sold this adulterated stuff, consisting almost wholly of coal ash and dirt of dark color, to Eastern Shore boatmen for 8 cents, delivered on their boats, they knowing of what it was composed. To convince yourself of this, you have only to walk to the common near the Spring Garden, where you will see the manufacturers constantly engaged at this work; also on the Point, there are men largely engaged in the same business. No doubt these men have caused many to regret their purchases of *ashes*. Mr. Carmichael, probably, is one of the sufferers from this miserable imposition, as coal ash can hardly help the light lands of E. Shore, however useful they are to heavy clays. Yours, &c., AMICUS.

Utopia, Sept. 4th, 1848.

[We thank "Amicus" for his facts. Two years since, we substantially stated the facts detailed above, with the view of putting farmers on their guard. We had seen these ash huckstering manufacturers at their dirty work. No farmer should buy ashes of any one but a regular soap manufacturer of character.—ED. AMER. FARMER.]

EXPERIMENTS ON THREE ACRES OF GROUND.

The New York State Agricultural Society, in 1846, "offered premiums for the best experiments, to be continued through three crops, to ascertain the bushels of grain and weight of stalks or straw, the actual value of manure to a farmer. The experiments were to be conducted as follows:

1st. Three contiguous acres of ground to be selected.

2d. One acre of which to be manured with not more than ten cords of common barn yard manure the first year, and ploughed under.

The second acre to be manured with fermented or compost manure, to be applied in any manner the experimenter chooses; but a full account of the mode of making the compost, and the manner of its application, accompanied with a statement of the cost of making and application, will be required.

3d. The three acres to be planted with corn the first year; the second to be sowed with barley or oats; the third crop to be winter grain; an accurate account of the yield of each crop to be kept.

4th. A full account of the whole management, and all the details respecting the culture and the circumstances affecting the crops.

5th. The several kinds of soil to be particularly described, and specimens transmitted to the State Society for analysis, before commencing the experiments, and also at the conclusion of the experiments, discriminating carefully between each acre."

There was, it appears, only one person who made experiments, the late J. F. Osburn, Port Byron, Cayuga County, New York, who is represented in the transactions of the Society as a most systematic and careful farmer; and he only lived to make one year's experiments, the account of which is thus given:

"Mr. Osburn commenced his experiments on three acres of land, the soil of which was a gravelly loam,

with a clay subsoil from 8 to 16 inches below the soil.

On the *first acre* he put 10 cords of barn yard manure; hauled it on while wet, and spread it as he was ready to plough it under.

On the *second acre* there was no manure.

On the *third* he put 8 cords of barn yard manure, half or two-thirds rotted, and four loads of muck, cleaned out of a ditch, spread on as drawn.

The three acres were ploughed as nearly alike as practicable, from 6 to 8 inches deep, and all rolled and dragged before planting. The Corn was planted 3½ feet apart with a drill, and the pieces cultivated alike. The hills designed to be from 1½ to 2 feet distant in the rows, with 3 stalks in a hill.

The yield of Corn was as follows:

On the *first acre*, 113½ bushels of shelled corn weighed 59½ lbs. to the bushel. Stalks, when dry, weighed 3,652 pounds.

The *second acre* had 58½ bushels shelled corn 58½ lbs. to the bushel, and 2,200 lbs. of stalks, and 17 bushels of turnips.

The *third acre* 9½ bushels of shelled corn, 59 lbs. to the bushel, and 3,300 lbs. of stalks.

Mr. Osburn's son continued the experiments of his father, in 1847, with the following results:

The *first acre*, which had 10 cords unfermented manure, yielded 112 bushels of oats.

The *second acre* 88½ bushels of oats, [the unmanured acre, best land originally.]

The *third acre* 90½ bushels of oats.—*Transactions N. Y. State Ag. Society.*

These facts tell well for the unfermented manure.—ED. AMER. FARMER.

MANURE AND DEPTH OF PUTTING IN SEED WHEAT.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—I have some remarks to offer, and some enquiries to suggest, in reference to the cultivation of wheat, which with your permission, I will do through your periodical. One point particularly will now form the basis of these remarks:—the *manner and depth* of putting in seed. In the July No. of the "Albany Cultivator" is a paper from J. Otis, Ohio. Mr. Otis is quite minute and at the same time intelligible in his details. From these I learn his plan to be, 1st, to plow; then harrow; plow again—sow his seed and harrow them in. In your August No., you say in your reply to your Northampton correspondent, 1st, plow; then harrow—sow the wheat, "plow it in 3 inches deep, harrow, &c." Now the difference in the two modes here referred to, is what I desire your attention to. Mr. Otis *harrow*s in, you advise to *plow* in 3 inches deep. My own opinions rather incline to harrowing in, believing that frequently the clods or sluices thrown by the plow, covers the seed too deeply. At the same time I have noticed, after harrowing, many seeds uncovered and lying on the surface, especially where trees and stumps abound.

Will you favor me with your views of the advantages and disadvantages of the two modes of putting the seed in, the labor performed as you perceive being the same in each case.

In your suggestions to the Northampton Co. farmers, you say: "At the usual time of seeding wheat in autumn—from 1st September to 1st October, seed the corn-field down in wheat." The usual practice here is to sow wheat on corn land. But I have

had two serious objections to this system: 1st, because I suppose the two grains requiring much of the same nutriment, it was unwise to make such a draft upon the soil. 2d, because the wheat is necessarily kept out of the ground too long—sowing frequently, not being done before 15th November to 15th December. The extract above seems to contemplate a plan by which the ground may be seeded in all of September. As I am a young, and of course an inexperienced farmer, please let me into the secret of the *modus operandi*. You will see the interest I have in this enquiry, when I inform you that I design sowing wheat this fall on land which is now growing corn, with the addition of a luxuriant crop of Peas,—these latter mature from 1st to 20th October, at which period we usually have frost. In answering the foregoing, you will at once inform me how I am to dispose of my corn and peas so as to prepare the ground for a seasonable reception of wheat.—The 10th to 20th of October I deem sufficiently early for this latitude.

One more matter and I will trouble you no more, at least at present. When the clover is sown in February on the Wheat, how shall the former be covered, as the wheat is then growing?

Your attention will oblige, yours truly,

WILL. H. WILL.

Brinkleysville, N. C., Sept. 5th, 1848.

REPLY BY THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Our correspondent by referring to our article relative to the mode of putting in wheat in Northampton County, Virginia, will perceive that we intended to adapt it to the *light, thin sands* of that county, where there are no "clods or sluices" to impede the vegetation of the wheat, or to prevent the plants from penetrating the surface. The depth of burying them, 3 inches, which we advised, is, we think, as near the right depth for successful germination, as may be deep enough to derive advantage from the moisture of the earth, and not too deep to receive the healthful influence of atmospheric air.

Land intended for wheat, or any other small grain, or grass, should be so prepared by harrowing, dragging, and rolling, as to thoroughly reduce and pulverize all clods. Until these are made fine, land cannot be said to be in a condition to receive such seeds. We have ever thought that more than half the chances of success depend upon the thorough preparation of the soil, and our experience has tended to strengthen that opinion.

The mode of putting in wheat which we recommended for the soil of Northampton County, Virginia, is such as we practiced upon similar soil, and always with success. After ploughing in our wheat to the depth of 3 inches, which we regulated with a wheel-plough, we harrowed to level, and of course used a light harrow, which we had made specially for such work, and then finished by a roller, so as to compress the earth and bring it into immediate contact with the seed, and thus promote earlier germination than would otherwise occur was the latter process omitted.

With regard to seeding wheat on the corn-ground, our advice to the people of Northampton was in view of the fact, that corn is their great staple crop; but according to the practice which obtains everywhere where wheat follows corn—and the practice is extensive—the wheat grower does not wait till the corn is removed before he seeds his wheat, but sows it among the standing corn, ploughing or cultivating the seed in, going as near to the stalks as

practicable—when the ground is frozen through the winter, having previously gathered his corn, he cuts off the stalks with a hoe or other sharp implement and removes them—the more provident, beds his cow-yard with them and thus increases his stock of manure—the slovenly, cast them aside to bleach and waste in some gutter or by-path.

The difficulty which our correspondent entertains about the similarity of the food of *wheat* and *corn*, need not give him any trouble, especially if he seeds down his wheat in *February* or *March* with *clover*, which he ought to do. As to the method of covering the clover seed, the practice of most, is to sow and leave the seeds to find their way into the earth themselves, through the openings made by the thawings of spring. Some select a time when the ground is firm enough to resist poaching, and pass a roller over the field when the clover seed is sown—a practice which we think highly of—it covers any roots of the wheat plant which may have been thrown out by the uprooting influence of alternate freezings and thawings, compresses the earth, makes a smooth surface for the reapers, and operates most favorably in every aspect in which its effects can be viewed.

It is not clear to our mind whether the *Peas* of which our correspondent speaks, were planted on the *hills of corn*, or *sown broadcast*. If the former be the method, there can be no difficulty in seeding the wheat—if the latter, he will, of course, have to wait until the *Peas* should have matured and are gathered.

We have known *wheat* seeded in a corn-field as early as August, with the best results.

We have always been an advocate for the early seeding of wheat, and feel a little gratified to find, the practice of our readers, of late years, conforming to our views. If possible, we would get it in all the month of September—if not convenient in that month, we would strain a point to have it in by the middle of October at farthest. But whenever we should be delayed beyond that period, we would not care much to get it in at all, unless we sowed it with buckwheat, to act as a protection through winter—As the early bird gathers the worm, so does the early farmer gather the harvest.

In 1838, of necessity, we had to defer seeding rye until the 24th of November, the ground froze the night after—the seed remained in the soil all winter, and the plants did not show their heads until the 10th of March following—the result was, a heavy crop of grain—a little late in ripening.

FARMING IN NORTHAMPTON CO., VA.

To the Editor of the American Farmer :

MR. EDITOR:—There are a few points in your remarks, published in the Farmer for August, in reply to a letter of mine in the July No. of the same paper, which seem to require some notice at my hands. In the first place you appear to take it for granted that marl is to be had in abundance among us, whereas I am not aware that a particle of that most valuable manure has ever been found on the Eastern shore of Va. As a substitute, however, we use shell lime with woods-mould, marsh-mud, &c. The shells from which the lime is obtained costs us 5 cents per bushel: delivered on the premises and will yield about 70 per cent. of lime. This loss together with the expense of burning, &c. brings the price of the lime to 9 to 10 cents per bushel,—notwithstanding our farmers are entirely alive to the value of this inestimable resource, and a considerable trade is now carried on therein.

My prejudices are entirely in favor of your plan of deep ploughing, and yet almost universal experience is opposed to it here. The farmer contends that by turning up the clay subsoil the nutrient portion of the land is so diluted as to injure materially the first crop, and if continued, will for years destroy the productive character of the soil. This, they say, is with them a matter of *experience*. Acting upon your directions, in the month of May, I prepared a piece of ground for Irish potatoes, and ploughed it deeply. About the finishing furrow, where by my order the clay subsoil was finely turned up, is the only part of the lot where the potatoes did not come up well and stand finely. Through nearly the entire length of this furrow and on each side, as far as the greatest depth of ploughing extends, there are scarcely a dozen plants. I had those rows replanted and the few that made their appearance above ground are sickly and worthless. The greatest depth of ploughing did not exceed 8 inches. Corn which has been planted in the clay thrown on the borders of a ditch, if it comes up at all, is yellow and sickly, and the earth from a cellar that has for years been shut out from light and air is prejudicial to vegetation when first applied. I have a case under observation at this time when an old house was pulled down some months ago, and the spot on which it stood ploughed, harrowed, and nicely prepared, and several efforts made to procure a growth upon it by sowing oats, clover, &c. but with scarcely the production of a plant, while within six feet of the spot on which the house stood there grew a luxuriant crop, and yet the treatment and soil are precisely the same, and there is an abundance of lime in both. When the ground has been so long kept shaded and dark it absolutely refuses to give life or support to a single vegetable. It is possible that the subsoil plough would obviate these difficulties, by deepening and better mixing the soil, and perhaps by turning up a smaller depth of clay at each ploughing the same good results would follow.*

An opinion prevails here as on other sea-coast sections, that plaster is inoperative; you allude to this fact and ask, "Now, pray what is there in the composition of plaster to prevent its action near salt-water?" Taking it for granted the fact is as stated, I will suggest a theory which will entirely account for it. Plaster, as you remark, is composed of sulphuric acid and lime, and it acts chiefly by abstracting ammonia from the atmosphere by the powerful chemical affinity that sulphuric acid has for that substance—having performed this office there remains in the soil as a result of the action of plaster, sulphate of ammonia and lime. The latter mineral in process of time becomes a carbonate by gradual union with the carbonic acid of the soil and atmosphere, while the former is in condition to give out its ammonia, as food for plants whenever they call upon it for that purpose. Now suppose, as is the case in all lands immediately on the sea, that both air and soil are filled with the salts of soda; the sulphate of lime is decomposed as before, but the sulphuric acid

*In all cases where subsoil may be turned up to deepen the surface soil, and especially clay soil is brought up, it is necessary that the deepening process should be performed in the fall, and that the inverted soil should be limed with freshly slacked lime, for the three-fold purpose of neutralizing the salts of iron generally found in virgin clay, and of letting loose the potash, and to create the newly turned up earth.—Editor American Farmer.

has a stronger affinity for soda than ammonia, hence sulphate of soda is formed instead of sulphate of ammonia, and as the latter is the fertilizing substance, of course in this case, plaster would be inoperative. The above explanation is based upon the assertion I have seen made that the sulphuric acid of the plaster relinquished its hold upon the lime to seize upon the ammonia, which is chemically untrue, because the affinity of the acid for lime is stronger than for ammonia. If, however, the sulphate of lime acts "by absorbing the nitrogenous bodies from surrounding objects," it can only do so while it remains sulphate of lime, if then it becomes sulphate of soda as above, it would still be inoperative to this extent.

I am inclined to think you will never persuade the farmers of Northampton to adopt your four field system, at all events with the rotation of crops you recommend. I am almost tempted to believe this last involves an important typographical error in your article. For example, the 3d year under your system, the farmer raises only clover and wheat,* dispensing entirely with corn and oats, those indispensable materials for the support of man and beast. For both, you substitute wheat, notoriously a most uncertain crop, especially in sandy soils and warm climates. By this course, you reduce the husbandman to the unfarmerlike necessity of buying food on which to feed his horses and hands, and in case of failure in the substitute you propose, (a thing here far from unlikely) leave him without means wherewith to pay for them. I doubt the applicability of your four field system with the proposed rotation to any people, but assuredly it is very far from reaching the wants of ours. It is at best a doubtful point whether wheat will answer with us as a crop in any system of rotation; occasionally it succeeds finely, and often as signally fails. It is a general proposition to which there are few exceptions, that corn growing countries are more constantly prosperous than those in which wheat is the staple, and it is no doubt owing to the greater certainty of the former crop, and from the light texture of our sandy soil this uncertainty is justly regarded as a great objection to placing it in the position of a staple commodity with us.

In place of your plan of four fields, I would suggest the advantage of thirding as offering greater advantages than any other system yet proposed to the farmers of Northampton. The crops might remain as now for the first few years, viz: corn and oats—sowing clover with the oats and allowing it to lay out one year so as to plant the corn on a clover fallow; and afterwards adopting instead of oats, either rye, barley or wheat, as seemed most advantageous. This plan seems to combine the advantages of a rapid and permanent improvement of the land with speedy profit; while it does not oblige the farmer to dispense with the use of so much of his capital as a greater sub-division would involve, I think it may be demonstrated by figures that this plan possesses important advantages over the present. The estimate below is for a farm of 300 arable acres.

Three Field System:

1st year.

200 acres in oats, 10 bush. per acre, at 30c. \$600.00
100 acres in corn, $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 bar. per acre, at \$2.50 562.00
\$1162.00

*In the manuscript, two crops of grain, and one of them corn, was named.—Editor.

20 bushels clover seed at \$5, \$100.00
75 bushels seed oats for additional
50 acres, \$22.50 122.50
\$1039.50

{Having but 100 acres in corn, instead of 150 acres, I suppose the additional manure and more time for cultivation will increase the yield $\frac{1}{4}$ barrel per acre.

2d year.

100 acres in oats, 10 bushels per acre, a30c. \$300.00
100 do in corn, $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 barrels per acre a\$2.50 625.00
75 bushels oats for seed (saved) 22.50

\$947.50
20 bushels clover seed a\$5 per acre, \$100 100.00

\$847.50
{I mean as above, for still more time, &c. will increase it $\frac{1}{4}$ barrel per acre.

3d year.

100 acres in oats, 1000 bushels, a30c. \$300.00
100 do in corn, after clover \$ 5 bar. a\$2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1250.00
Oat seed saved 22.50, corn in 3 years \$10, 32.50

\$1582.50
{I suppose the clover fallow, more time for manuring, account, &c. to have doubled the yield.

Add 1st year, - - - - - 1039.50
Add 2d year, - - - - - 847.50

Total in 3 years, 3469.50

Two Field System:

150 acres in corn, 2 barrels a2.50 \$750.00
150 do in oats, 10 bushels per acre, a30c. 450.00

\$1200
3

In 3 years, 3600.00

3469.50

Loss in 3 years, 130.50

Now as an offset to this loss we have the increased value of the land, the horses and cattle raised from the clover, milk, butter and lambs from the same source, and also if we choose to gather it from 20 to 50 bushels of clover seed. But in order to make it more apparent, extend it 3 years, and let us see what the results would be at the end of 6 years from the time the system was begun. Thus:

\$1582.50, the amount produced the 3d year, multiplied by 3—\$4747.50, and 1200 the yearly yield under the old system $\times 3 = 3600$. Add these amounts respectively to the sums above received at the expiration of the first 3 years, viz: \$4747.50 $\times 3 = 14242.50$ \$8217.00 and \$3600 $\times 3 = 10800$. The difference between them, viz: \$1087 represents the actual gain in money in that time.

I have purposely omitted in the above estimate the probable increase in the crops of corn over 5 barrels per acre, and also the entire increase in the oat crop, because I desired every thing should stand at the lowest point. It is but fair, however, that the increase in the oat crop the 4th year should be added, inasmuch as land that will produce 5 barrels of corn per acre may be regarded as entirely safe for 20 bushels of oats. In order then to make the above calculation perfectly exact, we should after the 3d year, estimate the yield of oats at 20 instead of 10 bushels per acre. Thus, the 4th year:

Oats 2000 bushels at 30c.	\$600	
Corn 500 barrels at 2.50	1250	
Oat Seed saved	22.50	—\$1872.50 4th yr.
Under old system	1st year,	1039.50
\$1200 per year,	2d do	847.50
4 years—\$4800	3d do	1582.50
		\$5342.00
		4800.00

Showing a gain of \$542.00 in 4 ys

Extend this as before to six years as follows :

\$5342 at the end of 4th year	\$4800 in 4 years
3744 at end of 2 years more	2400 in 2 years more
\$9086 end of six years	\$7200 end of 6 years.
7200	

\$1886 gain in 6 years.

And this without as before counting the increased value of the land and other sources of comfort and profit therefrom. The expense of cultivation is also reckoned at the same.

The surest way to arrive at truth is by exposing it to the opposing wind of contrary doctrine. We thus get rid of the chaff of error by the same process by which the Farmer cleans his grain,—and by agitating this subject we farmers of Northampton may hope at least to arrive at the plan most likely to suit our peculiar circumstances.

NORTHAMPTON.

HOW CAN DOG FENNEL BE DESTROYED?

WEST RIVER, August 23d, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—Will you be so kind as to state, in the next number of your valuable paper, if there be any known remedy for the extirpation of a weed called the "Dog Fennel," which has become a perfect pest to some of the farms of this neighborhood?

It grows on the richest lands, and especially those which have been well manured and limed. It is propagated from the seed which appears to possess great vitality, as all the efforts made to destroy it, by separate plowings during the summer, seem only to add to the evil by increasing its luxuriance. The seed is supposed to have been first introduced with the clover seed, and since then to have been more widely diffused with long manure not well fermented.—The following theoretical plan has been proposed, but possibly some of your numerous readers may be able to speak of the matter from practical experience, viz: "to cultivate the infested land for two successive years in green crops (corn or tobacco) and then put in oats, using none but well rotted manures."

Can you readily procure and publish an analysis of the leaves and ashes of our different forest trees, in reference to their qualities for composts?

Permit me to ask you another question. What particular breed of cattle combine in the greatest degree the qualities for beef, working oxen, milk and butter? The average of these qualities is of course looked at for the general practical use of the ordinary farmer.

Replies in Part:—The plan which our correspondent suggests for the extirpation of dog-fennel ought to succeed, if the pest were not permitted to mature its seed.

There has no general analysis been made of our

forest trees. In Europe some analysis have been made of some trees of like species to portions of ours, which we will collect and give in our next number; but this we will say, that the leaves of all trees are good for composts.

It is hard to say which breed of cattle is best for all purposes—where pastures and winter food, as roots, meal, hay, &c. abound, the *Durham* might be so considered—different men have different views in matters of this kind—the improved *Ayrshire* is an excellent milker, yields rich butter, is well disposed to fatten, and makes good beef. The *Devon* gives a fair yield of very rich milk, and is remarkable for its nutty butter—fattens readily, and makes exquisite juicy beef, while as oxen, they are without a rival. A bull of either of these breeds would greatly improve the native stock.

ANALYSES OF OYSTER SHELLS AND SHELL MOULD.

KENT COUNTY, Sept. 4, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—Thinking perhaps that the following articles will be acceptable to you, I herewith hand you an analysis of some oyster shell lime, and also mould, which is the screenings from the shells, made by Dr. Higgins, our State Chemist, of which this is a true copy: [No. 1.]

LIME—Silica, (sand)	8.80
Alumina, (clay) and iron, as per oxide, 1.20	
Lime, (as carb.)	89.99
Water, animal and vegetable matter, or organic matter,	00.01
	100.00

[No. 2.]

MOULD.—Water, animal and vegetable matter, or organic matter,	9.15
Silica, (sand)	36.05
Alumina, (clay) and iron, as per oxide,	3.80
Lime, as carbonate or air slacked lime,	51.00
	100.00

Should you deem the above articles worthy of a place in the columns of the Farmer, I beg that you will give it to them.

Yours, very respectfully,

W. A. GIBSON.

The above analyses of *Oyster Shells*, and *Shell Mould*, we deem valuable, and, therefore, present our acknowledgements to our correspondent. The shells, as proved by the analysis are rich in the carbonate of lime, though we confess our surprise that some phosphorus earth was not found in them. The shell mould we have used, and considered it a valuable manure. We were best pleased with its action when used in compost—in that way it yielded its virtues most promptly.—Ed. Am. Far.

THE ROSE BUG.—Freshly burnt ashes, sprinkled several mornings in succession over a rose bush, tree or shrub infested with rose bugs, will destroy them. It should be done early in the morning before the dew is exhaled. Three or four applications will answer.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

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Address SAMUEL SANDS, Publisher,
2 Jarvis' Building, North-st., Baltimore, Md.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received an interesting communication from Wm. H. Ross, Esq. of Delaware, on the subject of the use of Ashes, which we regret being obliged to defer until our next No.

We have also from "R. S. W." a paper on the subject of "Agricultural Economy," which will also be given in our next. "Old Dominion" will also appear in our next.

Maryland Agricultural State Fair.

As this number of the *American Farmer* will reach most of our readers in the middle States several days before the commencement of the GRAND CATTLE SHOW AND AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION, which is to be held on the 9th and 10th of November inst., we would again call attention to it, and give some additional particulars. The preparations are being made on the most extensive scale for the accommodation of the society, exhibitors and visitors. The President and other officers of the society are zealously laboring to arrange the show ground, buildings, tents, &c. in the best manner—and we hope every farmer of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia, who can consistently do so, will attend the Fair. We think we hazard nothing in saying, that the arrangements are more complete, and the accommodations for the comfort of the animals better, than at any similar exhibition in the U. States.

Our friends should remember that *they are expected to render this the best exhibition ever held in the Middle or Southern States*. Thousands of strangers from all sections of the country, will be present, and expect to see a grand exhibition. Let them not be disappointed—but rather surprised at its extent, beauty and variety in every department.

THE PLOUGHING MATCH will take place at 1 o'clock, the first day of the Fair, instead of Friday, as originally announced.

The Annual Address is to be delivered by Col. WILSON M. CAREY, on Friday the 10th, from the balcony of the Fairmount Inn.

Regulations for the Fair.—All members of the Society, and all who may become members at the time of the Fair, by the payment of \$3, will be furnished with *Bridges* which will admit the person and the female portion of their families to the exhibition at all times during the Fair.

All exhibitors at the Fair, must become members of the Society, and have their articles entered at the Business Office, before taking them into the enclosure.

All those who intend to compete for the premiums at the Fair, should have their animals and articles on the grounds *without fail, on Wednesday the 8th of November*, so that they may be arranged and in readiness for examination by the Judges on *Thursday morning*. This regulation must be strictly adhered to.

No premiums will be paid on animals or articles taken away before the close of the Fair.

No animals or articles entered for exhibition will be allowed to be removed from the grounds, except by

permission of the President, until the close of the Fair.

A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY will be held at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, over the Post Office, on Wednesday evening, the 8th Nov., the day before the commencement of the Fair, at 7 o'clock, at which time the committees appointed at the former meeting are expected to make their reports, which will be read, and such other business transacted as may be brought before the Society.

The Farmers and Planters should, with unanimity and zeal, feel themselves called upon by every consideration which should have weight with virtuous and patriotic minds, to give the society their warmest countenance and most generous support. The objects to be attained by this noble association, are of the utmost importance, not only to the agricultural, but to all other interests of our good old commonwealth, and hence the necessity which exists, that all should come up to their work in the true spirit—with hearts imbued with the resolute determination of doing good service to the State—of showing to our confederate sisters, that *agriculture in Maryland* has its votaries, who are not only able but willing to testify their devotion to the cause—who, possessing the ability, have also the disposition to aid the *Maryland Association* in their laudable effort to elevate the character of husbandmen—whose calling, if properly pursued, is, beyond all comparison, the noblest of all others—for what can be more ennobling than the one which is the foundation of civilization itself.

In view of the obvious importance of the interests involved, we appeal, most earnestly, to the *agriculturists of our own and neighboring States*, not only to attend in masses, but to bring with them, for exhibition, stock of every description, GRAIN of all kinds, roots and vegetables of every variety, as well as the productions of their orchards and gardens.

To Farmers and Planters WIVES, DAUGHTERS and SISTERS, we appeal, in the sincerity of our hearts, and conjure them by the love and respect they bear their kindred, be the relation whatsoever it may, to bring for exhibition the household products of their own fair hands—their choice fruits and flowers, and the productions of their well conducted dairies, as there is no portion of an agricultural exhibition which is so well calculated to excite admiration and win applause, as that allotted to the management of the ladies. The cunning of their hands, so rich in the evidences of genius—so ripe in all that is elegant and useful, and so prolific of every thing that promotes human comfort, go at once to the heart of the sterner sex, and warm into action all that is lofty and purifying in his nature,—for he that can look upon such beautiful elaborations unmoved, is neither good for church nor state—he hath "no music in his soul, and is only fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils." But independent of the effect produced by viewing the results of female ingenuity, the presence of woman herself, robed in purity, sheds a lustre, and infuses a feeling, which language cannot portray.

To the MECHANICS OF BALTIMORE, THOSE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND GENERALLY, AS WELL AS THOSE OF OUR SISTER STATES, we appeal, and request them to make their department rich in every thing connected with the saving of labor. And when we reflect that *genius, enterprise, and public spirit*, are treasured virtues with *American Mechanics*, we feel confident that the display of machinery at the coming Fair, will be equal, if not superior, to any other of the season, not even excepting that of the *New York State Fair, at Buffalo*.

PRIZE ESSAY.

In our columns, to-day, will be found the *Prize Essay* which won the 2d premium, a piece of plate valued at thirty dollars. This *Essay* is by that accomplished gentleman and successful farmer, Col. HORACE CAPRON, of Laurel, Prince George's Co., Maryland, and will commend itself to the attentive perusal of every farmer and planter of taste and judgment. The well-earned fame of the writer, as a practical and enlightened husbandman, as well as the intrinsic merit of his essay, will concur to ensure this. In the system of renovation which Col. Capron so happily lays down for the guidance of others, he but exemplifies his own successful efforts, of restoring to the highest state of fertility, many hundred acres of the poorest lands that ever met the human eye, or grieved the human heart. When the Colonel came into possession of his estate, his fields were so many emblems of abject poverty—so poor, indeed, were they that no mind less adventurous—no heart less courageous—than his, would have ventured upon their improvement;—but with the intrepidity and daring which belong to his nature—with the lofty purpose of generous enterprise, he undertook the more than herculean task, and in some *seven short years* has brought up seven hundred acres of arable lands, which theretofore would not grow any of the cultivable grasses, and which yielded only five bushels of wheat to the acre, so that it will bear its two tons of hay and from 30 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. In a word, he has made barren and desert fields, as fruitful—if not more fruitful—than the best virgin soils. But as we wish not to forestal the Col. in his own happy vein of telling how he has done all this, we will direct the reader to his own excellent essay—and content ourself with the single remark, that whatever can be accomplished by human skill, by human industry, and by well directed enterprise, in the improvement of the soil, is within the power of Col. Capron's achievement.

It will be seen by the notice of the proceedings of the *Prince George's Agricultural Society*, that the Col. has borne off the palm for the best improved Farm.

THE ETRURIAN WHEAT.—We refer the reader to the article in this paper, descriptive of the success of Commodore *Ballard*, in the cultivation of this wheat, not so much with the view of calling attention to this particular variety, as to bring the fact to his notice, that after turning down a heavy crop of clover—and the clover crops of the Commodore are heavy—that he gave the land a *light dressing of stable manure*, an article which most farmers dread to apply directly to their wheat crop. This *dread* we have long thought was more imaginary than real, in soils where the proper mineral salts abounded to give elasticity to the wheat plant—for we recollect that Mr. *Wain*, of Elkton, raised, we think, *four succes-*

sive crops of wheat, on a ten acre lot, using as his *manure*, stable manure, and yet, averaged over forty bushels to the acre.

Commodore *Ballard's* product was 37 19-25 bushels merchantable wheat, besides five cart loads of rakings.

POMEGRANATES.

We owe our acknowledgments to Mrs. Wm. T. GOLDSBOROUGH, near Cambridge, Maryland, for an acceptable present of *Pomegranates*. They were raised in her garden, on the beautiful homestead in Dorchester county. The perfection of the fruit now on our table, evinces the skill of the donor in horticultural pursuits, whilst its rich and delicious juices, assure us, that it is worthy of the culture of all ladies and gentlemen of refinement. The largest of the specimens now before us, measures in circumference 1½ inches, whilst the smallest is 8 inches in girth.

Celebrated as is the Pomegranate in *sacred lore*—pleasant as is its juice to the taste, it is to be regretted that it is not more generally found in all well appointed gardens, as independent of the value of its fruit, it is a great ornament, and reflects by its brilliant red flowers, when in bloom—and it is in bloom from June to September—the most delightful appearance to the eye of the lover of the beautiful—while the fruit, which remain upon the tree till frost, lends a charm to the prospect, which it enriches, by the effect of contrast, with its rich deep golden hue, diversified by spotted points of reddish tint.

Having thus favorably spoken of this fruit, we would add that it may be grown in any deep, rich soil, and that it may be propagated by seed, layers and suckers.

Cecil Co.—An Agricultural Society has been formed in this county, and the following officers have been elected: President, Gen. Henry S. Stites; Vice Presidents, Messrs. Griffith M. Eldridge, Benj. F. Sluyter, William H. Gilpin, John W. Chambers, Nathan Lackland, Amos Ewing, and John Owens; Secretaries—Corresponding, Col. Geo. R. Howard; Recording, W. B. Davidson.

WINTER OATS.—In parts of England, a species of oats, under this name, is cultivated. They are there sown in *October*. The custom is, to turn their *ewes* and *lambs* upon it, and to permit them to remain thereon, to graze during the continuance of spring. In the beginning of summer, they are taken off, and the oats permitted to grow and ripen. In August they are cut and yield a fair crop of grain. In our country, we think, such oats should be sown from the middle of August to the 10th of September, so as to give their roots a chance of so embedding themselves in the soil as to resist the spewing of winter and spring. To those who have indifferent pastures, or none at all, a rich resource for sheep feeding in spring might be found in a crop of these oats.

A correspondent at Dumfries, Prince William co., Va. writes us, that he is now treating his land the same way they do in N. York, (from whence he hails,) and promises to give us a statement of his success in his new home. We shall be happy to hear from him. We thank our correspondent for his high encomiums upon our Journal—we hope to continue to deserve the approbation of our friends and patrons.

LEACHED ASHES.—In the process of leaching ashes, if the operation is nicely performed, all the *potash* is extracted from them, and hence some have concluded, that, in consequence, they are inoperative. Upon the first blush this conclusion would seem to be legitimately drawn, but yet we find such ashes acting with powerful effect, acting so as to satisfy the reasoning mind that the principle of *potash* was still existent in them. A suggestion, however, of one of the most eminent chemists of France, would seem to account for the phenomena. Professor *Gelien* says, that *Potash* again forms spontaneously in drawn ashes.

MOBILE AGRICULTURAL AGENCY.—We refer our readers in the South Western States, and the manufacturers of implements, to the advertisement of Messrs. S. B. North & Co. on our advertising page. The facilities these gentlemen possess of disposing of implements, seeds, &c., should commend them to the attention of inventors, manufacturers and others, who may wish to establish agencies in that important and wealthy section of our country. Their references are guaranties of their integrity, and a disposition to establish a legitimate agency.—They do not intend to purchase tools or machinery of any kind upon their own account, which would interfere with giving patentees, inventors and manufacturers a fair and equal chance in the disposition of their articles to the planter and farmer.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.—The following note from the President of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co. evinces a spirit of liberality, which it gives us great pleasure to record. The Baltimore American, in publishing Mr. Swann's note, remarks:

"The immense concourse of visitors to the Annual Fairs of the Agricultural Societies in the Eastern and Northern States has for years past been a source of great emolument to the respective railroad companies in that section of our country, and consequently the intelligent and close-observing officers of these companies have evinced the disposition to foster and encourage the Fairs, and to render them such facilities as in their power, in the transportation of stock and passengers to the places of exhibition.—The indefatigable President of the new State Society, CHAS. B. CALVERT, Esq., having drawn the attention of the Directors of our several railroad companies to the subject, the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has, with a liberality highly commendable, given direction to the proper officers to transport, free of charge, all stock and articles intended for the forthcoming exhibition, on the 9th

and 10th of November. We have no doubt that the other lines of transportation will also issue similar orders to their agents."

*Office of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, }
October 21st, 1848.*

TO CHARLES B. CALVERT, Esq., President Maryland Agricultural Society:

SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, I have now to inform you that it would not be possible for this company, without serious inconvenience, to issue round tickets for the proposed Fair in November next. It will afford me great pleasure, however, to instruct the master of Transportation to bring over this road all stock and articles intended for exhibition free of charge.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
THO. SWANN, President.

J. J. Cohen, jr. Esq. Vice President of the Philadelphia rail road and steamboat line; R. M. Magraw, Esq. President of the Susquehanna R. R. Co., and J. S. Shriver, Esq., President of the Erickson line of steamboats to Philadelphia, also promptly and favorably responded to the application of the Managers of the Agricultural State Society, and of the Mechanic's Institute, to permit all stock and articles intended for the Exhibition, to be transported over their respective lines free of charge.

We hope the steamboat lines to the Eastern Shore and Virginia, will grant similar privileges. The White Haven steamboat has so arranged her trips, as to enable persons after voting to reach this city in time for the Fair.

A NEW AGRICULTURAL WORK.

[LIME AND MARL: their Agricultural uses. With explanations of their properties and management, the soils to which they are applicable, and the precautions to be observed in their use. Especially adapted to the wants of practical farmers. By JAS. HYATT, Chemist of the Mount Airy Agricultural Institute, Germantown, Pa.]

We have received from the author, a pamphlet of 32 pages, bearing the above title; and, after having read it with attention, we can in truth say, that it is all that its title imports,—it is "especially adapted to the wants of practical farmers." It treats of the agricultural use of lime and marl in such a way as to be understood by every farmer, and though occasionally terms, technical and peculiar to the science, are used, they are so used as that the commonest capacity is made fully to comprehend the learned professor's meaning. Though he discusses each subject learnedly, he is so happy in adapting his phrases to his readers, as to disembarass the mind and unfold the idea he intended to convey in a manner that none can misapprehend.

The treatise is a compend of all that can be said—it is philosophical and convincing, and as the advice which it contains is calculated to save much in the outlays for lime, every farmer should purchase a copy. Its price, 12½ cents, places it within the reach of all. We like the book, because it is written sensibly, plainly, honestly and truthfully; because it is profound without ambition or assumption, and because it has been written with the evident object of enlightening the agricultural mind.

SWEET BRIER HEDGE.—A writer in the *Michigan Farmer* states that, a year ago last fall, he had 90 rods of ditch cut along his marsh; the next spring he sowed the furrow with *Sweet Brier* seed, having gathered the seed in the spring, after hanging on the bushes all winter to freeze. He formed a furrow with a shovel, 2 or 3 inches deep, sowed the seed, covered them, and patted the earth down with the back of the shovel. The seed came up well, and the plants are now over 12 to 18 inches high, and, as he thinks, will, in three or four years, form an impregnable hedge against any animal.

TRIFOLIUM INCARNATUM.—We have received the package of seed alluded to by Mr. Meigs, in the annexed note, and will present it for inspection and distribution at the Cattle Show and Fair:

American Institute, Oct. 20, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—Junius Smith, Esq., has just returned from England, and has brought with him the new Clover, *Trifolium Incarnatum*, said to have originated in Italy—grows three feet high—has a beautiful purple conical head—comes four or five weeks earlier than any other clover—seed can be had in London, from Mr. Smith, Factor.

I have great pleasure in obeying the directions of Mr. Smith, in transmitting a small package of the seed for you to experiment with.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

H. MEIGS, Sec'y of the Farmers' Club.

S. SANDS, Esq., Secretary of the Maryland Institute.

THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FAIR.—We would call the attention of the Farmers and Planters of this and other States to the fact, that the Mechanics' Fair, which has been for some months past announced in our paper, was to be opened on the 31st of Oct., and will continue about three weeks. Those who visit our city to attend the Agricultural Fair on the 9th and 10th Nov., will have an opportunity of attending this also, and we can promise our friends a rare treat—as from the indications we have, the Fair will be one of great interest. We hope the ladies will insist on accompanying their liege lords to our goodly city, to witness these interesting shows.

THE FINE ARTS.—The Society for the promotion of the Fine Arts, have also opened their Exhibition of Paintings at the Athenæum Gallery, and it is supposed to be the most attractive exhibition of the Fine Arts ever held in the United States. The Sun says:

"Messrs. John H. B. Latrobe, Benjamin C. Ward, and William M'Kim comprise the committee under whose superintendence the Exhibition has been gotten up, who together with Dr. Edmondson, have bestowed a great deal of time and earnest attention to the important work of collecting and arranging many splendid works of art, which are now being suspended upon the walls of the commodious apartments prepared for their reception and exhibition. We learn that the collection of pictures in the third story of the Baltimore Athenæum, numbering about two hundred and fifty, have been selected with the greatest care, and with a strict reference to their real merit, finish and style, from a large number which had been submitted for the consideration of the committee appointed to make the collection."

THE LADIES.—The fair daughters of our State are expected to contribute in a very essential manner to our State Fair. We have heard some of them of the Eastern, as well as of distant counties of our own Shore, express their intention of being present, with specimens of their housewifery, to compete for the premiums of the Society. We hope that this department will be well attended to. It is always one of much interest at such exhibitions. The city of Baltimore, and the State generally, can, and we hope will, present such an Exhibition of Fruit and Flowers, as to vie with those of our sister States. In connexion with this subject we copy the following remarks of Dr. Underhill, of the N. Y. Institute Fair, to show the interest that was elicited by the presence of the ladies at that Fair:

Dr. Underhill said:—There is no incident in our Fair so gratifying as the presence of this large concourse of the Daughters of Westchester. We are especially gratified for this, because wherever the Ladies bestow the powerful influence of their presence and interest, success is certain. All know, though all do not appreciate, the great effect of their favor and co-operation in our noble world-sustaining Art—the honorable Art of Agriculture. And we are desirous that they should continue the interest they have so kindly manifested—that they should adorn our future Fairs with their persons and the productions of their hands. We hope another year will secure to us a richer display of fruits, and flowers, and needlework, and all things of your beneficent handicraft. For where do ladies look so beautiful as among their rival roses, with fruits that strive to emulate the blush of their cheeks, or lillies that illustrate the purity of their souls? We hope to see our department of Horticulture keeping *pari passu* march with its masculine partner, Agriculture. We have never had a finer display of the grosser products of the farm than to-day. At our next convocation we wish the Ladies' Department—Horticulture and Floriculture—to eclipse even this fine show. And you of the sterner sex, did you realize how a generous co-operation with your wives and daughters in the gentler pursuits of the field strengthens and endears the bond of love between you, not one of my fair auditors would henceforth lack an ample corner of the farm for a flower and fruit garden. You cannot weave a stronger chain around the heart of woman than a wreath of flowers; you cannot provide a pleasure so perennial, so free from alloy, so elevating to the soul, as these glorious beauties that Nature so bounteously bestows upon all who advance the trifling labor of their cultivation. We are, also, too little aware how much we thus add to the delights of a rural residence—how effectually we check that abnormal longing for the vain and pernicious attractions of city life—that unnatural appetite engendered by the *ennui* of an unattractive country home. Embower your houses in a Floral shrine, and your wives and daughters shall be the priestesses; let them greet the sun in a parterre all span-gled with the loveliest flowers, a beautiful rainbow glistening in every corona as the ascending day-kings illumines the drops of pearly dew wept there by the Spirit of Night; let the breeze that woos them to enjoy its coolness, be laden with the perfumes of a thousand plants, and you will weave around them a spell that all the heartless shows and unsatisfying excitements of the city may strive in vain to break.—

Secure their happiness is this and other ways, and as for your own you

"Make assurance doubly sure
And take a bond of Fate."

Permit me, ladies, in behalf of the Societies I represent, to return to you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the honor you have done us by your kind attendance this day; and allow us to expect you on all future occasions.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR.—The Exhibition this fall, it is thought, will realize \$15,000 to the Institute. It has been unprecedentedly successful. A deputation from the Maryland Institute of this city attended the Fair, and from them we learn that the managers were compelled to decline receiving a great number of articles offered, in consequence of the immense quantity presented for Exhibition. We can only copy the following sketch of an interesting portion of the proceedings.

Plowing Match.—The following persons entered the lists, and drew for choice of ground, each to plow one-eighth of an acre within an hour, the premiums to be given for the best plowing, not the quickest, though quick time was allowed proper weight: Alfred F. Munn, Asa B. Munn, Mathew Ray, Thomas Horton, John Mayer, Rufus Armbrler, Ray Tompkins, Henry Robinson, and Sammel Hall. There were three pair of oxen, the other teams being horses; and a fine show they made in their "long pull, strong pull and a pull altogether" for the Silver Cup. All the work was excellently done, and it was no easy matter to decide who were victors. After long deliberation the judges announced the first premium to

Henry Robinson, (Minor and Horton's Plow,) for performing the best plowing of one-eighth of an acre within one hour—Silver Cup.

Asa B. Munn, for the second best—Silver Medal.
Matthew Ray, for the third best—Diploma.

Before leaving the Plowing ground, and at the request of those present, Mr. Meigs, Recording Secretary of the Institute, made a very brief address.—He said, in substance: The history of the Plow may be called the history of Civilization. If we draw a comparison between the rude implements of the ancients and our own, glittering yonder in the sun as if proud of their honest work, we shall appreciate this truth. Indeed the Plow, as manifested to-day, is the noblest instrument the ingenuity of man has ever produced. Suppose our race were swept away, and, long ages hence, geologists—like those of the present—were to exhume one of these Plows, they would say at once the race of beings using this instrument were certainly civilized. Barbarism and Tyranny can give us Castles, and Monuments, and Statues; but Civilization and Liberty alone furnish the life-preserving Plow. What we yet lack in the proper use of this instrument is the knowledge and practice of putting the Plow deep enough into the earth. Our farmers do not stir up the subsoil—do not develop the real strength of the soil. My friend, Prof. Mapes, a member of the American Institute, with a team of oxen weighing 3,400 pounds, took up a furrow of eighteen inches in depth, and then, with a subsoil plow, went down seventeen inches farther—a noble example of deep plowing which should be, in some degree, followed. The roots of grain and grass in dry weather will seek moisture from

below; give them a chance to penetrate by loosening the "hard-pan," and your granaries will show ample reward for the trouble. Thus, you make your fields good for ten to twenty years; whereas, with our usual thin furrows, in a few seasons they have lost all strength, and will bear nothing without the forcing of manure. Let every farmer, then, *plow deep*, instead of scratching the surface, as is too often done. See to it that you get good tools, also. The best plow is the cheapest—the spade made of fine trowel steel, bright as a mirror and sharp as a razor, is the easiest and best for work, as I have proved in my own experience. Let our Agricultural implements boast a polish more brilliant as more noble than the instruments of war, and may every farmer encourage the invention and perfection of those auxiliaries which lighten the sweat of the brow and advance the science and practice of Agriculture.

Dr. Underhill spoke in corroboration of deep plowing, and explained the leeching *upward* of manures instead of downward, as is generally supposed. A vast portion of the manure used in this country is evaporated by the sun instead of enriching the soil. This leeching upward is proved by every board that lies a day upon the ground; look under it and you find it covered with the moisture so essential to the land, and in that moisture the strength of the manure you have spread. He had often tested this theory, and staked his reputation as a farmer upon its correctness, &c. &c.

The whole assemblage now returned to the grounds of the Cattle Show, where the County Premiums were to be announced.

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OF THE

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOC.

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City of Baltimore.—Sam'l. W. Smith, Joseph W. Patterson, J. Swann, J. M. Gordon, Thos. Swann, Jno. Ridgely of H., John M'Tavish, D. M. Perrine, A. P. Giles, Eli Clagett, Wm. Tiffman, Jesse Slingluff, Carroll Spence, A. Murdoch, Wm. Gilmore, Geo. Law, Robt. A. Taylor, Frederick Harrison, Samuel Barnes, John H. Duvall, Truman Cross, Robert G. Ware, Lewis Birely, John W. Reese, Dr. Thos. E. Bond, Jr., Wm. McConkey, P. Sauerwein, P. B. Sadler, J. Crosby, J. C. Adams, R. Sinclair, Jr., D. Koster, Thos. Corner, J. W. Jenkins, Jesse Hunt, James O. McCormick, Adam Denmead, Dr. Craig, James Curley, S. Kirk, R. Hook, Jno. T. H. Jerome, Sam'l. Fenby, Ezra Whitman, Jr., T. W. Levering, W. O. Welsh, Seth Reed, Chancy Brooks, M. M'Blair, John H. Iglehart, G. V. Lurman, J. H. McHenry, Col. S. Hillen, R. S. Rollins, Thomas I. Iglehart, B. C. Barroll, Wm. G. Thomas, Hugh Gelston, Samuel Brady, Thos. Wilson, Sam'l. McDonald, Sam'l. Hinks, J. G. Cox, A. W. Bradford, Wm. Whitelock, N. Luckett, Capt. L. G. Taylor, Jas. W. Curley, L. G. Quinlan, J. Whiteford, John J. Lloyd, O. Tiffany, W. Blackburn, John W. Randolph, Henry Tiffany, S. Scribner, A. J. Levering, Wm. Hy. Chappell, Hy. Nabb, Wm. Robinson, Wm. P. Dunnington, Jno. J. Frisbie, Jno. R. Rhodes, Jno. W. Randolph, Edward Clayton, James C. Adams, Hamilton Easter, Obed Hussey, Wm. Keys, J. W. Jenkins, Chaney Hoskins, R. N. Milburne.

SYSTEM OF EASTERN SHORE, VIRGINIA, AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—In a recent conversation you requested I would throw out some suggestions in reference to Eastern Shore of Virginia Farming, concerning which several communications have lately appeared in your paper: what I have to say is at your service.

The system prevailing on that shore is one that has frequently been alluded to in the agricultural works of the day, and has often been brought forward to prove that land required no rest. It is the two shift system, being the alternate growth of corn and oats without intermission. There, many contend that land if not grazed will not only bear such a cultivation, but will improve. I myself can bear testimony to the fact that land not grazed has not under that treatment deteriorated within the last eight years, and that too without a particle of manure to keep it up. As to its improvement I am not

so sanguine. But then, when the farmers in your neighborhood, that make their ten and fifteen barrels of corn to the acre, and forty and fifty bushels of oats, come to learn that the land which I allude to will not bring over three barrels of corn and twelve bushels of oats, they will probably think the deterioration has gone so far there is no going any farther—certainly it is a poor product, but some how or other our farmers not only manage to live on it, but many, very many have to do with a great deal less. That the land has deteriorated from what it was many years ago, I presume cannot be disputed. Newly got up ground produces a great deal better, and I have known newly got up ground to deteriorate under this system; but then it was always closely grazed. How newly got up ground, not grazed, would stand the treatment, I have no experience to say. But it is not a very prevalent opinion that it would not suffer. Probably, when the practice accompanying this system is known, it will not be so surprising that there should be no exhaustion.—When we gather our corn we leave the stalk and the shuck standing in the field. The shuck, elsewhere, is generally pulled off with the ear and given in the pound to the cattle. The stalk, too, is not unfrequently cut up and carried to the yard for manure. With us, however, both remain, and when we sow our oats the following February, are first cut down and then turned under by the plough. We all know, also, that a great deal of grass springs up in the corn field after it is laid by. This too, not being grazed by the stock, is turned under when seeding oats.—Now all this must afford considerable nourishment to the land. Then again, after cutting our oats in July, a very luxuriant growth of Magothy bay bean comes up, which shades the land all the summer, and not being disturbed, must leave a great deal of vegetable matter. The oat stubble too, is there, and the grass and the weeds—all these decay where they grow, and are turned in the ensuing spring, when the field is broken up for corn. In this way, I imagine the land receives a great deal of help. It is surprising to see how completely the corn-stalks and shucks are rotted, when the land comes to be planted in corn. But they have then almost entirely disappeared, and never occasion the slightest trouble.

If this does not satisfactorily account for our lands not becoming exhausted I don't know how to account for it. If it does, then probably any other land would stand the same treatment just as well. The Magothy bay bean is not indigenous, but was sown where it grows. Once sown, it continues forever.—It is not peculiar to our shore. I have seen it very luxuriant in the neighborhood of South River, Anne Arundel county, Md., where it is looked upon as rather a pest, interspersing with their clover. I have no doubt it is to be found in a great many other places.

It is very palpable how corn and wheat would not answer in the two shift system, as well as corn and oats. Wheat would have to be sown amongst the corn in September or October, and thus the land would lose all the corn stalks and shucks, and a great deal of grass; besides being called on for another growth of grain, while one was still making demands on it. Oats not being sown until the following February or March, nothing of this kind occurs and the land rests all the winter.

But notwithstanding land ungrazed, will, with us, at any rate, thus grow corn and oats successively without apparent injury, it by no means follows, that that is the best system for us to pursue. We

want to improve our lands. Besides we must and do graze them. Immediately after gathering our corn, the field is thrown open to all descriptions of stock, and the same thing happens immediately after harvesting our oats. The soil is thus stripped of everything but the naked corn-stalks and the dry stems of the Magothy bay bean, and there can be no dispute but what under this treatment our land does fall off. Nothing but the greatest exertions in manuring makes it produce even a tolerable yield. What then can we do better? I am satisfied myself we can introduce clover with the greatest advantage. One of your correspondents says clover has been tried and failed. I know not the details of that trial—it was before I went to the country to reside, and the experimenter is now no more. I am aware that many intelligent farmers with us think that clover will not succeed—some say that the land is not kind to clover—others, that it allows the wire grass to get too much ahead—and a third party, that the profits and benefits of clover will not repay for the loss of the field in grain culture. The first idea I know to be a mistake. Our land is, I believe, kinder to clover than to anything else—I have been experimenting with it in a small way for the last six years, and I find that land which will not produce over two barrels of corn to the acre, will grow clover not indeed fit for the scythe, but abundantly enough fit for pasture.

As for the growth of wire grass, that only means that the soil is somewhat more difficult to break up, requiring probably a two horse plough instead of one. This, to be sure, occupies more time, for not having extra horses we of course can't run so many ploughs at once. But this is only applicable to the breaking up of the land. After it is once broken up, it is, if anything, easier to work afterwards, for it is more thoroughly broken up by a two horse plough than it can be by one. It might compel us to roll and harrow to put the land in better order. But I am satisfied this extra work, and two horse ploughing, would be the best thing we could do for the land, and whatever renders it necessary, could not but highly enhance the product.

The last objection is probably the most serious one, and the true one after all that prevents the introduction of clover. The loss of the field in grain culture is what can't be got over. Under the three shift system one-third, and under the five shift system two-fifths of the land lies out, and thus lessens materially the bulk of the grain crops. But altho' this appears to be the case at the start, it can be said by way of off-set, that in the first place so too may be lessened the expense of carrying on the farm. So that in point of fact you only carry on a smaller farm instead of a larger one. And in the second place the clover, even when turned in, yields considerable feed, for I believe one crop is generally taken from it before it is turned in. But when it is not turned in the food it yields is immense, and probably so diminishes the demand on the corn stack as to bring up the rates nearly equal to what they were under the two-shift system. Thus even at first, it strikes me the loss would be little, and in the end such would be the improvement in the land from the rest in clover, that the bulk of grain would soon fully equal its original quantity. But probably some persons having the force and the stock in possession would not wish to lessen it to the size of a smaller farm—So much, I should say, the better—employ that force in the making of manure—it could not be employed in anything to more advantage. One of the

great recommendations of clover, I take to be, is its affording so much time to the making and hauling out of manure. Virgin soil does not require perhaps that manure should be taken much into the account of farming—but after it has been exhausted by incessant cultivation, manure then becomes as important an item, as the preparing the land for seed or the receiving the crop after it is made. It is in vain to go to an immense outlay in the procuring of implements and machinery; in vain to plough and plough and plough again, unless there is nutriment in the soil to sustain the crop. Whatever best conduces to the accumulation of that article, now constitutes the grand secret of farming. Hence the great advantage of clover, as not only affording so much spare time, but as actually constituting in itself a kind of manure even when not turned in; resting the land from yielding up grain nourishment, shading it during the summer, and by its roots, and a considerable portion of its stems and leaves, affording a large body of vegetable matter to rot and mix with the earth. Where it is turned in it is said to be equal as a fertilizer to a covering of the richest compost. If these are its advantages it certainly ought to be resorted to, and I think if resorted to on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the most highly beneficial results would ensue. The land there is not naturally inferior to what it is elsewhere, as our lots and gardens prove. No garden vegetables surpass ours, and our flowers and fruits attain the greatest perfection.—Treat it as exhausted lands are treated elsewhere and the same improvement will be sure to follow.

What would be the best rotation depends somewhat upon circumstances. The one alluded to in the August number of the American Farmer, probably was misprinted. A modification of the three-shift system is what I myself am bound to adopt, though the five shift system is probably the best where you wish to grow wheat. I have not time, however, to dwell upon this subject. Indeed, I fear I have already trespassed too much upon your time. Should these desultory remarks suggest anything to you, do with them as you please—if not, thrust them aside as so much rubbish.

Yours, &c.

ALPHA.

REMARKS UPON THE EDITOR'S NOTES UPON THE "STEEPING SEED GRAIN" IN THE SEPT. NO.

To the Editor of the American Farmer :

DEAR SIR:—The essay on "steeping seed grain," as was anticipated, met with rather a rough reception from the Editor. It is very evident that the writer and the Editor cannot, without more evidence than has yet been adduced on either side, concur in their sentiments on this question. Truth, however, is the object sought, and it can only be attained by investigation.

When the Editor says, in reference to its application to prevent the ravages of the Hessian fly, that "this is the first time he has ever heard any such reason given for the use of a mineral soak," we understand him to mean simply what he says; and not to intimate that the writer never saw or heard such a reason assigned. If the Editor will but recollect that there are many advocates, who maintain that the fly deposits its egg in the wheat grain when in a milky state, he will not be surprised that they should resort to this expedient for the purpose of destroying it. And if you admit the assumption that the egg is

thus deposited, you must grant for the process a philosophical character, as we can easily conceive that the egg thus deposited, could be destroyed by a caustic steep. After asserting that "there is no question that any saline soak will prevent smut," which we think is a question still subjudice, he declares that "he has now for the first time learned that any soak was a preventive against rust, that being a disease produced by causes which operate only at the period of ripening, &c." Now what proof have we that smut is not "produced by causes which only operate at the period of ripening?" It certainly does not depend upon the condition of seed grain, for wheat that is clear of smut may be sown and the crop arising from it be a smutty one; and vice versa, smutty wheat may be followed by a crop free from smut. Because a farmer soaks his wheat in a given steep and escapes the smut, are we to regard the experiment as conclusive, when another farmer does likewise and has the smut in his crop? Do you not believe, Mr. Editor, that if these soaks were really specifics against smut, that smut would now be known to the farmer only in history? The Editor will please to recollect that there are no agricultural theories so absurd as not to have advocates among both writing and talking farmers. That he should not be acquainted with all those theories, and should meet with one occasionally for "the first time," is by no means strange, for no one man can be supposed to possess universal information. He will also please to take it for granted, from the fact that we attempted to show their absurdity, that we met with them, as intimated in the essay on "steeping seed grain."

Respectfully,

AN EASTERN SHOREMAN.

Church Hill, Sept. 6th, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer :

DEAR SIR :—I believe it is admitted by most intelligent and experienced farmers, that deep ploughing and especially substratum ploughing, not only greatly improves the soil ultimately, but contributes much to increase the product of the present crop. Yet the expense attending substratum ploughing has been such as to deter many farmers, especially those working and attentive men who derive their whole support from the product of their farms, from practising this very necessary and profitable work, induces me to make this communication, although by some it may be considered a very small matter. But, sir, I am writing for the million, among whom economy is so necessary, and in nothing more than cheap tools, if with them he can perform his work well. All the substratum ploughs I have seen have been costly, not only the first cost, but the repairs and horses to work them. I have therefore determined to make public through your journal (if you think it worthy of insertion) an instrument I have recently used, not only cheap and easy to be kept in order, but requiring much less horse power. I had one made for two horses, and by way of experiment have ploughed and sown in wheat 25 acres (which now looks well) more perfect and easy than I have ever been able to do with the best substratum plough I could procure. In one of the Nos. of the American Farmer you gave the description of a plough worked by Warren King of Montgomery county, called by some the "Ruter," which is used here to plough corn the first time.—The stock is precisely that of a single shovel plough; a bar of iron from 13 to 16 inches long, two inches wide and one thick, sharpened at the point, and a lit-

tle curved and neatly fitted to the stock. The Fallow plough precedes and the Substratum follows in the furrow made by it. The first cost and repairs did not exceed five dollars to break 25 acres. If you think the above worthy of insertion, do so; if not, suppress it. Yours, &c., WM. BREWER.

DEPTH OF PLOUGHING.—Mr. J. Delafield, a very successful farmer, of Seneca County, New York, who has brought the yield of wheat on his farm from 15 bushels up to from 28 to 35 bushels per acre, thus expresses himself upon the subject of deep ploughing :

"The usual depth of ploughing is 6 inches, though, when not in the heaviest clay, we average a depth of 8 inches. There is no doubt, on my mind, the effect of deep ploughing is a decided benefit to every plant we cultivate."

Mr. Peter Crispell, Jr., says :

"I generally have my ploughing done to the depth of 8 inches or more. I have not made any experiments in the same season, but have found that my crops generally are better since I have ploughed deep, than they were before on the same soil."

Mr. James Pendill, Jr., says :

"I plough from 6 to 10 inches deep. The deep ploughing has been on our wheat land; and, for that crop, I think the effect has been decidedly better crops."

The experience of three eminent practical farmers like the above, should excite inquiry.—ED. A. FAR.

VALUE OF ASHES.—In the Transactions of the N. York State Agricultural Society, in a paper by Peter Crispell, Jr., we find the following paragraph, in commendation of the value of ashes. He says :

"I have used plaster quite freely for some years, and with much apparent benefit; but, for the last five years, I have used ASHES, both leached and unleached, with much more benefit than any thing else I have ever used. My ashes I have used on my meadows by applying about 100 bushels to the acre, thereby about doubling the quantity of grass raised before. I have used it on corn by putting on the hill, immediately after planting and before the coming up of the corn, or immediately after, applying about 30 bushels to the acre, and, on some parts of my cornfield, I have applied 100 bushels per acre, thrown broadcast over the field after planting, which has proved to be more beneficial than the smaller quantity applied on the hill."

A planter of Tennessee having requested us to furnish specimens of our Journal, we sent him several numbers; and on the reception of which he forwarded us his subscription, with the following remarks :

"To say that I was pleased with the numbers sent, would but half express what I would wish to say; I was delighted, for I did not think there was in existence an agricultural paper that would come up to what I had thought a paper of that kind ought to be. If the future numbers are as good as the three first, you may raise your subscription to five dollars, and I will still be a subscriber. Moreover, if it continues as good as it promises, you may look out for a sound list of patrons from this office—I will spare no pains to obtain them for you."

THE GOSNELL GRAPE.—We have received the bunch of grapes from the vine of Mr. Gosnell, described below by a physician of this city, with the flavor of which we were much pleased:

"This Grape was discovered four years ago by L. W. Gosnell, Esq., about 15 miles west of Baltimore, growing in the woods, in low ground, within a few feet of a blue fox grape vine. In its native state, it ripens early in September. The leaf resembles the blue fox grape, being of a light yellow color on the underside of the leaf. In its wild state, the berries are of the size of a small damson, with but few in a bunch, and growing separate. In its native state, it has much of the flavor of the fox grape, but much sweeter, with considerable hard pulp in the centre of the berry. Mr. L. W. Gosnell procured cuttings from the vine four years ago and presented them to Jesse Slingluff, Esq., who has taken great pains in their cultivation—the young vines bore a few bunches last year, which proved upon cultivation to be of so superior a quality of grape, that he set out the last spring a large number of cuttings. He considers this grape far superior in flavor to his other Catawba grapes, to which class he considers this to belong.—The cluster I present you, weighed when taken from the vine 10 days ago, 10½ ozs., and contrary to its growth in its native state, the berries are remarkably compact in the bunch.

"You will perceive the berries now, by cultivation, are so much improved that they have little or no pulp in the centre."

STEWART, OR ETRURIAN WHEAT.—We have been furnished with the following extract from a letter from Com. Ballard, to his friend in this city. Com. B's. farm is situated near the city of Annapolis:

"As an evidence that the Stewart wheat gives a bountiful yield when well cared for, I will observe that I sowed 11 bushels of it in a piece of ground in excellent heart, six and a quarter acres, which yielded me two hundred and sixty-six bushels of clean wheat, and five cart loads of rakings which was not included in the above—weight, about 63 lbs.

"The land in which it grew was in beautiful order, a powerful crop of clover having been turned in, thrice plowed, and harrowed until as fine as an onion bed, lightly dressed with well rotted stable manure, as a top dressing, and put in with the plough, harrowed and rolled in.

"That there might be no mistake, I hauled this first from the field, and got it out and fanned it before another straw was touched—so there can be no mistake. I send you a small sample."

AGRICULTURISTS' RIGHTS.

The farmers and planters throughout the country, should insist upon appropriations of land being made by the General Government, sufficient not only to establish in each State, Agricultural Schools, but to sustain them in professorships. Almost all other interests in our country have, from the formation of the government, had large appropriations made to advance and secure their welfare; but Agriculture, the greatest of the whole, has been entirely neglected. To us it appears obvious, that the period has arrived when those engaged in the culture of the earth, should stand shoulder to shoulder and demand their rights. They should not only petition Congress, but insist upon their just claims being granted—they must see that the Committee on Agriculture report, and that the measure they may recommend be acted upon affirmatively.

MACHINERY AT THE FAIR.

We have reason to believe that the display of Agricultural Machinery and Implements, at the Fair in this city, will be far superior to any thing of the kind ever presented in the United States. Not only our own manufacturers, who by the by, are not excelled by those of any other city in the Union, will be prepared for a demonstration which will gratify and astonish every visitor from a distance, but we have reason to expect that the inventors and manufacturers of various articles of superior merit from other places, will be on the ground to contest with them for the palm of superiority. The liberal basis on which the State Society is founded, opens the field of competition to every county and State, thereby securing the most decided advantage to the farmer and planter, in aiding them to judge of the merits of the machinery manufactured in every section of the Union, and enabling them to make their purchases accordingly.

MONTGOMERY CO. AGRICULTURAL SOC.

Reports of Committees at the late Fair.

ON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—The Committee on Agricultural Implements beg leave to state to the Society, that it is gratifying to find the increasing efforts, on the part of competitors for premiums, to render their respective assortments of implements more attractive and numerous with each returning year. The aggregate display of such implements is unusually great on the present occasion.

Among the display of Mr. Fitzhugh Coyle, of Washington, your committee notice three-horse, two-horse, one-horse Ploughs, Harrows, Fans, Cultivators, Cutting Boxes, Corn Shellers, Corn Crushers, six-horse Threshing Machine, Shovels, Spades, &c. and a great variety of Horticultural implements.

The display of Mr. E. Whitman also attracts the attention of the committee. They find many articles of the same description with those noticed above; also, his Endless Chain Horse Power. To this was attached his Thrashing Machine and Fan, Corn Crushers, Corn Mill, Straw Cutter, Fodder Cutter, Cider Mill, and Circular Saw; all in operation at the same time, and driven by a pair of horses.

Mr. Page, of Washington, exhibited two plows, with circular revolving mould-boards; also, a machine for dropping and covering corn; and which last machine has been long used by Mr. Pleasants.

Mr. Nimrod Davis, of Unity, exhibited a plough, invented by himself, and on a principle improved and advantageous.

Mr. Pinneck exhibited a large and superior machine for drilling in seed wheat. Mr. Coyle also exhibited a similar machine, of smaller and cheaper construction.

Mr. John W. Spates exhibited a cheap, but good Corn Sheller; and Francis Fleck, an instrument for cutting turnips for feeding cattle.

Your committee are gratified to find that your community are availing themselves of the occasion to supply themselves with many new and valuable implements. More than \$300 have been, at this Exhibition, thus invested, and your committee think advantageously.

Your committee distribute the premiums, as follows, to wit:

Your committee award premiums to Mr. Fitzhugh Coyle, for the best three-horse plough, Ruggles & Mason's patent; for the best harrow; for the best Wheat Fan; for the best Straw Cutter; for the best Churn.

They award a premium to Mr. Nimrod Davis, of Unity, for the best two-horse Plow.

They award a premium to Mr. Page, of Washington, for the best one-horse Plow.

They award a premium to Mr. E. Whitman, for the best Corn Sheller, and the grand premiums for the best display of Agricultural implements.

And they adjudge Mr. Robert Dick's Basil to be the best plowman, and entitled to the premium.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. N. AUSTIN, Ch'n.

To A. B. DAVIS, Pres't.

ON HORSES.—The best Stallion, James Dawson. Best Stallion, less than 4 years old, Gassaway Sellman.

Second best, James H. M. Kidwell.

Best Brood Mare and Colt, Robert P. Dunlop.

Second best ditto, William G. Robertson.

Best 1 year old Filly, Thomas B. Stabler.

Second best, Robert Dick.

Best Saddle Horse, Otho Magruder.

For the best Stallion, at large, the committee divided the premiums between Otho Magruder and Gassaway Sellman, as they divided equally in the qualities of their horses.

ON CATTLE.—The Committee on Cattle, after careful examination and comparison of the several specimens presented for premiums, award as follows:

For the best Oxen, Remus Riggs.

Second best do William Brown.

For the best Bull, (under 4 years,) John Biays.

Second best, ditto, Roger Brooke.

For the best Cow, of mixed breed, G. E. Brooke.

Second best, ditto, George E. Brooke.

For the best heifer, 2 years old, Ed. Stonestreet.

Second best, ditto, A. B. Davis.

For the best heifer, 1 year old, A. B. Davis.

Second best, ditto, A. B. Davis.

For the best milch Cow of any breed, G. E. Brooke.

Second best, ditto, Gen. T. T. Wheeler.

The committee cannot conclude their report with satisfaction to themselves or justice to others, without special notice of the beautiful specimens of Durhams and Devons, which the enterprising and distinguished farmer of Laurel, Col. Capron, has so generously sent for exhibition here, to enlarge and embellish our Fair, without any motive of competition.

The committee consider such manifestations of kindness and liberality worthy of public acknowledgement, and they tender to him, in the name of the Society, their cordial thanks.

GEORGE E. BROOKE, J. BROWN,
J. W. MAGRUDER, N. WHITE.

ON OXEN, &c.—The Committee, to which was referred the distribution of the premiums offered by special contributors, for the best Oxen and the best Bull exhibited as coming from any quarter of the country, now make the following report:

The premium of \$10, offered for the best Yoke of Oxen, is awarded to Samuel Ellicott.

The premium of \$10, offered for the best Bull, is awarded to Col. Horace Capron.

Your committee feel themselves called upon to say that Mr. Cameron and Mr. Thomas Blagden, exhibited very splendid Oxen; and that the Oxen of Messrs. Alfred Brown, William Price, Remus Riggs, and A. B. Davis were highly creditable to their owners and to the county.

Mr. Robert Dick exhibited two bulls, which were worthy of notice and commendation.

Geo. E. Brooke, Ch'n.

ON SWINE.—The committee on Swine beg leave to report, that they have examined the several pens of Hogs, offered for exhibition, and take great pleasure in saying that they find a number of fine Hogs, amongst which are Dr. Turner Wootton's Sow and Pigs, Worthington Waters' fine Boar Hog. Julius West, Esq., deserves much praise for a very fine Sow and two litter of Pigs.

The committee regret very much that sufficient premiums are not allowed, to reward all of the above gentlemen.

We award the premium for the best Boar, to Worthington Waters, \$3.00.

To Dr. Turner Wootton, for the best Sow and Pigs, \$5.00.

JOHN H. KING, J. B. GAITHER,
LEWIS SHOTTS, ZADOC TALBOTT,
GEORGE BIRD,

Sept. 14th, 1848.

ON SHEEP.—The committee appointed to examine the Sheep, exhibited at the Fair this day, after a careful examination of the different flocks, award the premiums as follows:

Best Buck, (Cotswold,) A. B. Davis.

2d best do (Southdown,) A. B. Davis.

Best buck Lamb, (Com.) Z. Waters.

2d best do (Cotswold) A. B. Davis.

Best lot of Ewes, (Com.) N. C. Dickerson.

E. J. HALL,

B. W. WATERS,

WM. BROWN.

Sept. 14th, 1848.

ON BUTTER.—The committee to award premiums for Butter, report that after a very careful examination of the different samples on exhibition, award the premiums for the finest samples of fresh Butter, to Sarah B. Farquhar; and the premium to Mrs. Nathan S. White for the best sample of Potted Butter—all the samples exhibited were of very superior quality, and in fine order; and the committee found it a very difficult matter to decide between the samples.

The decision was come to in each case, without any knowledge on the part of the committee to whom the different samples belonged.

JULIUS WEST, GEORGE KNOWLES,
EDWARD STABLER, STEPHEN BAILEY,
JOSHUA PIERCE.

ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.—The committee on Fruits and Vegetables report, that after a careful examination of the fine display for exhibition, award a premium to Miss Ellen Clopper for a display of the greatest variety of vegetables; and a premium to Mr. Joshua Pearce, for his very fine display of most delicious fruit.

Mr. William Clements exhibited some Honey, equal, if not superior, to any ever seen by any one of the committee.

Mr. A. B. Davis exhibited two "Hunter Cantelopes," the seed of which came from China, of very large size and superior flavor; also, some superior peaches, weighing eight ounces; also, some very large pumpkins, weighing thirty-eight pounds. Mr. Wm. Price, of Unity, also exhibited some very fine pumpkins and apples.

The committee, with great pleasure, report the increased interest shown by the members, in exhibiting a larger and greater variety of fruits and vegetables than were ever before displayed.

R. Y. BRENT, Ch'n.

ON HOUSEHOLD MANUFACTURES.—The committee on Household Manufactures respectfully report, that the exhibition of this description of goods was not so extensive as could be desired; nevertheless, the display was such as to reflect credit on the taste and industry of those who manufactured the articles exhibited.

Among other articles, on which the committee are not authorized to award premiums, were some very superior 4-4 Brown Cottons, manufactured at the Triadelphia Factory, in this county, and a specimen of very handsome Cotswold Wool, grown by Col. Joseph Ware, of Clarke county, Va.

The committee award premiums as follows, to wit:

Best piece	fulled Linsey,	Mrs. Townsend,
"	striped "	Mrs. Dawson,
"	Flannel,	Mrs. White,
"	"	Miss Desellum,
"	Counterpane,	Miss Dawson,
2d "	"	Mrs. Barnes,
"	Blankets,	Mrs. Stonestreet,
2d "	"	Mrs. N. S. White,
"	Carpet,	Mrs. E. Braddock,
2d "	"	Miss Desellum,
"	Hearth Rug,	Miss Dawson,
"	Linen (no com) "	"
"	Diapers "	"
"	Towelling "	"
"	Yarn Stockings "	"
"	Cotton "	"
"	Thread "	C. Kilgour,
"	Sewing Silk,	Allnutt,
"	Yarn Gloves,	Mrs. Dawson,
"	Quilt,	Miss E. Orme,
"	Worked Collar,	Miss Clopper,
"	Wor. F. Screen,	Miss Brent.

Mr. Ramsburg, of Georgetown, exhibited a most beautiful collection of dressed Skins, Gloves, &c. for which this committee awarded him a premium.

SAMUEL C. VEIRS, Chairman.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING IN ALLEGANY.

Pursuant to notice, a number of Farmers and other persons, interested in the improvement of agriculture in Allegany county, met at the Court House in Cumberland, on Friday, the 13th of October, to take into consideration the subject of forming an Agricultural Society.

Samuel M. Semmes, Esq., stated the object of the meeting, and, on his motion, the following officers were appointed for the purpose of a temporary organization: Dr. S. P. Smith, President; W. L. Lamer, H. A. Jamison, Vice Presidents; N. C. Read, A. Cary, Secretaries.

Samuel M. Semmes, Esq. then arose and invited the Hon. John G. Chapman, of Charles county, who was present, to address the meeting. Gen. Chapman, thereupon, complied with the invitation, and proceeded to deliver an address, which was characterized by sound sense and practical experience, and was received with great favor by all who were present.

A conversation then ensued between Messrs. Wm. Price, C. M. Thurston, Thos. J. McKaig and S. M. Semmes, as to the propriety of forming both an Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

On motion of Col. C. M. Thurston, the following committees were appointed, with instructions to report on Friday, the 20th inst., at 4 o'clock, P. M., at the Court House.

Committee to report a Constitution for the Agricultural Society of Allegany County.—C. M. Thurston, S. M. Semmes and Samuel P. Smith.

Committee to report a Constitution for a Horticultural Society.—Dr. N. C. Read, James Cheston Lynn, H. A. Jamison, Moses Rawlings and Thomas McCulloh.

(From the Delaware State Journal.)

FARMERS' CLUB OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY.

The Club held one of its regular monthly meetings at Springdale, at Mr. F. Sawdon's. No subject had been regularly proposed for discussion, and the conversation was desultory, embracing several agricultural topics, treated in too general a way to justify their being reported in detail. On the subject of the wheat crop of the past season, Mr. Sawdon said he had never, during the twenty years of his farming operations, come so near a failure. He attributed the results to the time of sowing; one of his fields having been sown in August, the other late in October—the one was sowed too early, the other too late. Wheat, Mr. S. thought, with us, should be sowed in September. Mr. S. is high authority, and here we have his opinion, the result of both long and recent experience, that the time of seeding may of itself decide the character of the crop—either give an abundant one or in a great measure result in a failure.

The subject of the use of Guano was introduced; its value, and the prices that are demanded for it. John S. Skinner, Esq., the veteran editor, present by invitation, said that some twenty years ago, he had, after informing himself through the books of the value attached to it, imported two barrels; one of which he presented to Gov. Lloyd, of the Eastern Shore, who pronounced it a powerful and valuable manure; the other he gave to a president of an agricultural society on the Western Shore, who made no report of the results, if he had ever noticed them.

Since then British agriculturists had got hold of it; appreciated its value, and greatly enhanced their productions by the use of it, and now our agriculturists are beginning to use it extensively.

Mr. Holcomb said he was satisfied of its value, and had used it to advantage, particularly on poor land in Kent county. But the price had gone up from \$38 for Peruvian to \$58 or \$66. For Patagonian he was asked \$40 by the quantity. He had written to Minor, Lawrence & Co., largely engaged in the whaling business, at New London, Conn., who replied they had none then on hand; the last cargo in that port having been sold a short time before for \$31 cash for 2240 lbs., no charge for packages: these gentlemen referred him to a house in New York who had a cargo; and he purchased 8 tons of them at \$34. We must, said Mr. H., get it at first hands; we can't afford to pay the dealer 50 per cent. profit on our manure. Mr. Jackson remarked that the profits of a cargo bought at \$31 the long hundred, and sold at \$40 the short, was more than 33 per cent.; and the profits on a single cargo of 500 tons, costing \$15,000 would be \$5000; which was more than any two wheat crops in Delaware sold for. The farmer paying the merchant such profit for what goes on his land in the shape of manure, with the profits he makes on what comes off, will be likely to leave little profits for himself. Dr. Thompson remarked that the subject was one of interest. The Baltimore Convention of Agriculturists lately assembled in Baltimore had appointed an intelligent committee to obtain information on this subject. It was suggested by some gentleman present, that instead of \$40 it

had been selling as high in certain locations, as \$50 a ton, thus giving the dealer nearly 100 per cent.—One plan, a member suggested, would be to have a general agent for Delaware in New York; another to club together and buy a cargo. At \$30 a ton it would do to use this manure, at \$45 or \$50 it would not, unless we were willing to work for the profits of others, paying some \$2 or \$3 profit on a barrel of Guano, more than the price of a barrel of flour.

The Club examined Mr. Sawdon's farm and farming operations, and the result may be summed up in a few words, when it is said that even Mr. Skinner, the farmer's friend and safe counsellor, could find nothing to except to but the absence of an ice-house; a luxury that Springdale is still without unless indeed the finest and purest water issuing from the most bountiful springs should render this almost a superfluity.

In September the club met at Bloomfield (Mr. Jackson's). The day was unfavorable for out door operations, and the Club were disappointed in a trial of drills, which they had proposed making—several being present for the purpose, together with their owners. Particularly a new drill recently constructed by Mr. Hussey, the ingenious inventor and machinist of Baltimore, and Mr. Jacob Pierson of our own county, whose finished and excellent Drill was carefully examined, but a heavy rain prevented trial.

Mr. Skinner again honored the club with his company. He mentioned that the time of sowing wheat had been much talked about in Maryland, and the opinions of distinguished wheat growers had been sought. The larger number were for August sowing, some preferred September, a few sowed from choice even so late as October. The club again carefully canvassed the subject, and were unanimously in favor of September on our soil and in our climate—and a committee was appointed to answer a very able and interesting letter received on this subject from Dr. James Muse, a practical and scientific farmer on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Considering the advance our county and State are making in agriculture, the great exertions being put forth by our farmers, and the large investments making to enrich our soil and increase the aggregate wealth of the State, it was suggested the time had arrived when there might and should be some legislation looking to a co-operation with this great interest which constitutes the occupations of more than three-fourths of our whole population; and for this purpose the club constituted itself a committee to correspond with agriculturists in different parts of the State, with a view to an *Agricultural Convention*, to be held at Dover, in the course of the ensuing winter. The discussion of this subject occupied the attention of the club to the exclusion of more practical matters.

They examined a young nursery of Osage Orange plants, five or six thousand in number, grown by Mr. Jackson, from the seed during the present season, many of them being three feet high, with handsome hedges from which the owner of Bloomfield will farther ornament his fine estate.

NEW CASTLE (DEL.) CATTLE SHOW.

The Annual Exhibition of the New Castle Society took place on the 11th ult., and was conducted with the usual spirit which characterize the farmers of that whole-souled little State. The pressure upon our pages, in consequence of the publishing of a number of original papers crowded out last month,

deprive us of the pleasure of giving as much in detail as we could desire, the proceedings at the Fair. The following premiums, among others, were awarded by the Society:

For Sheep, the first premium was awarded to Clayton Reybold for the best buck. For the best crop of Wheat, not less than eighty acres, premium was awarded to John Jones—twenty-seven bushels per acre were produced. First premium to Jacob Pierson, for seed drill. Premiums were awarded to Mr. Hussey for his *Reaping Machine*, and to Mr. Bamboorough for his *Fan*. A premium was awarded Geo. McCorkle, for a *Cart Saddle*. A volunteer premium to the best Dairy Maid, a handsome cameo breast pin, offered by Major John Jones, was awarded to Mary Ann Craig.

Among the cattle presented for exhibition, were 12 cows and 11 heifers from the farm of John C. Clark—a number of cows and steers by C. P. Holcomb—five Devon cows, four young Devon cows, six Devon heifers, and five Devon calves, a splendid lot, by C. P. Holcomb. [We hope our Delaware friends will favor us with a sample of their stock at our fair in Baltimore, on the 9th and 10th of this month—they will have an excellent opportunity to compare notes—the field is open for them, and they will receive a hearty welcome.]

After the Dinner a number of toasts were drank, from which we select the following:

The Reverend Clergy—They cannot but regard with interest that occupation—the tilling of the ground—that constituted the employment of our first parent in Eden: recognizing a special providence in the genial sunshine and refreshing shower, they ask from Him a blessing on the husbandman's labour, "that he may enjoy in due time the fruits of the season."

Rev. Joseph Castle of Wilmington responded to this toast, and cordially approved the sentiment.—The first man was a tiller of the soil, and many of the distinguished men who we read of in sacred and profane history were tillers of the soil; the cultivation of the soil was, of all the pursuits of life, the best calculated for the development of the physical and intellectual energies, and for the improvement of man's moral and religious nature. When Mr. Castle concluded, the company were favored with the song "Speed the Plough," by Mr. Triggs, of Wilmington.

After the Governor and Chancellor of the State and the counties of Delaware had been toasted, the following was offered by the President:

Maryland—The formation of Agricultural Clubs, of County and a State Agricultural Society—their liberal patronage of that admirable paper, the "American Farmer," all indicate that the spirit of her Farmers is fairly aroused, and a more liberal and intelligent class of citizens belongs not to the landed interest of the Union.

Mr. Hussey returned thanks for the handsome manner his State was noticed, and congratulated the farmers of Delaware on the progress they were making in the cause of Agriculture.

THE LADIES.—A correspondent, of Talbot, informs us, that the committee on household productions at the Fairs of that county consists of six married and five single ladies—and suggests that his county should be represented thereon. The President and Curators will no doubt give due attention to the hint.

PRINCE GEORGE'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION.

The Marlboro' Gazette speaks in high terms of the result of the Exhibition in that place, on the 18th and 19th ult. Hundreds of ladies and gentlemen were present from the District of Columbia and the neighboring counties, and gave evidence of the great interest felt in Agricultural improvement. The Gazette remarks:

"Those who visited the Prince George's Agricultural Society in former years, must have noticed the gradual improvement in the various departments—and in everything exhibited at its late meeting there was displayed more perfection than on any previous occasion. The contributions of the ladies were both useful and beautiful. The display of fruits, flowers and vegetables excelled the rich collections of former years. The stock yard was well filled with superior animals, affording ample proof that the attention bestowed on raising improved animals, has more than compensated for the care and expense. We cannot do justice to the fine cattle exhibited—and must content ourselves with referring to the reports of the various committees. A most interesting feature of this branch, was the competition for the "Calvert Premium." It will be recollected that the liberal and zealous friend of Agriculture, C. B. Calvert, last year offered through the columns of the Gazette, to give the male calves of his celebrated Durham stock, free of charge, to such gentlemen as would oblige themselves to exhibit them for the premium of the Society annually for three years. Eleven gentlemen availed themselves of the offer, and the committee who passed upon the calves speak in the highest terms of their appearance. They have made an interesting report. [The winner of the premium will be at the Baltimore Fair.

The Society has been annually indebted to Dr. **BAYNE** and **THOMAS DUCKETT**, Esq., for their splendid assortment of vegetables—but on this occasion these gentlemen "beat themselves." Dr. B's. collection of fruits, flowers and vegetables certainly excelled any thing ever shown in Prince George's; and many were the compliments paid to the taste displayed in the arrangement of the beautiful wreaths of flowers over his table.

On the second day the annual address was delivered to a large and intelligent audience, by *Gen. Tench Tilghman*, of Talbot county. It was a production of much merit, and was well received by the audience. The Society have ordered it to be printed in a pamphlet with the proceedings of the Society.

Every thing connected with the exhibition passed off pleasantly, and the friends of the Society have reason to believe that it will go on and prosper, and every year add new evidences of its usefulness.

Amongst the most gratifying circumstances attending the Exhibition, was the presence of the venerable patriot and farmer, the *Hon. George Washington Parke Curtis*, who had quit his quiet retreat at Arlington, to evince the interest he felt in the Agricultural prosperity of his native county. There was scarcely any part of the Exhibition in which he did not seem to take a deep interest. He visited the various stables and pens of cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, vegetable stands, and in fact nothing escaped his penetrating eye; and we have it from a gentleman who accompanied him in his inspections of the numerous articles that he expressed frequently his ad-

miration of the perfection of the Exhibition in general, and especially that of the Ladies' department.

The visit of this noble representative of the immortal Washington, to Prince George's, will be remembered as one of the most interesting incidents of the 8th anniversary of our Agricultural Society.

The Washington News adds the following particulars:

Dr. Payne made an able report on farming. Col. Capron's farm was highly complimented in the report. It appears that he sends every day to Washington and Baltimore, 150 gallons of excellent milk.

The first premium on farms was awarded to Col. Capron, the second to Col. John D. Bowling, the third to Mr. James Somerville.

The premium for the best mutton was awarded to W. W. W. Bowie, Esq.

An excellent dinner was served up by Mr. Harris, and several animated addresses were made by the Hon. Mr. Jenifer, C. Calvert, W. W. W. Bowie, T. F. Bowie, and other gentlemen. Mr. Calvert's speech was an able vindication of the planters' claim to the patronage of the State. His remarks were well received by the company, who spent a few hours very agreeable at the social board.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, we have received the official account of the proceedings, which we exceedingly regret our inability to publish in this No.

BALTIMORE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AT THE PHILADELPHIA FAIR.

We notice by the Philadelphia Ledger that Messrs. Sinclair & Co. of this city received the highest premiums offered for the following machines:

Their 11 inch cylindrical straw cutter;
Their 12½ do do do do with corn-stalk lacerators; and
Their double acting eagle corn sheller.

All are represented as being highly finished and admirably adapted for the purpose intended. By reference to those gentlemen's catalogue, a full description will be found. We learn that no other machinery was exhibited at the above fair by them, otherwise they would probably have met with similar success.

At the Marlboro' fair, held on the 18th and 19th ult., those gentlemen also received the highest premiums for the following, viz:

First and 2d best plow;
Best set of cultivating implements for corn and tobacco;
Best horse power and threshing machinery;
Best fanning mill;
Best new and improved machine.

CHARLES CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee, pursuant to notice, met on the 17th day of August, and resolved to offer the following Premiums at the Fair, to be held in Port Tobacco, on TUESDAY, 14th day of NOVEMBER next:

Horses and Mules:

For the best Stallion,	\$7
" " " Brood Mare, for general purposes,	7
" " " Colt or Filly, from 1 to 3 years old,	5
" " " pair of Draft Horses,	5
" " " Saddle Horse,	3
" " " pair of Mules,	7
" " " Mule Colt, from 1 to 3 years old,	5
" " " Jack,	5

Cattle:

For the best Bull, of improved breed, from 1 to 5 years old, \$5

For the best	Milch Cow, of improved breed,	5
"	" Heifer, from 1 to 3 years old,	3
"	" Yoke of Oxen,	7
"	" Milch Cow, of common stock,	3
"	" Bull, of common stock, from 1 to 5 years old,	3

Sheep :

For the best	Ram, of improved breed,	\$3
"	" Ewe, of improved breed,	3
"	" Ram, of common stock,	2
"	" Ewe, of common stock,	2

Hogs :

For the best	Boar,	\$3
"	" Brood Sow,	3

Agricultural Productions :

For the best	hogshead of Tobacco,	\$5
"	" acre of Corn,	3
"	" acre of Wheat,	3
"	" acre of Oats,	2
"	" eighth of an acre of Potatoes,	2
"	" lot of Vegetables,	3
"	" lot of Fruit,	3

Agricultural Implements :

For the best	Horse-Power and Threshing Machine,	\$10
"	" Fallowing Plough,	5
"	" lot of other Agricultural Implements, to consist of at least five different implements,	10

Household Manufactures :

For the best	specimen of homespun cloth—not less than 3 yards,	\$2
"	" home-made Quilt,	3
"	" home-made Counterpane,	3
"	" Butter—not less than 5 lbs.	2
"	" home-made Wheat Bread,	2

By a resolution of the Committee, no other persons than members of the Society will be allowed to compete for Premiums, except Ladies and persons who may exhibit Agricultural Implements.

The Committee regret their inability to offer larger and more numerous Premiums. This is the beginning. Its many difficulties, by zeal and unity, can and will be overcome. Let all who approve of the Society's object unite.

HORTICULTURAL.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

There is not much work to be done in the garden this month, still there is some which requires attention, and little though it be, it is necessary that it should be attended to, and that quickly.

Strawberry Beds—If anything has intervened to prevent your having cleaned and dressed your strawberry beds, you may still have them attended to. After separating the runners from the main roots, pull up all the weeds and work in a moderate dressing of well-rotted manure, rake between the rows, and then spread thereon long straw, which should be confined by wooden pegs.

Cabbages—Take up your cabbages and put them away so that they may be protected from the winter's frosts—after planting them in position they should have a covering so as to turn off the rain—a

covering may be very securely made with corn stalks and straw, where boards are not convenient.

Asparagus Beds—These may very safely be cleaned and dressed. After cutting off the seed stems, which should be removed to some convenient square and burnt—give the bed between the rows a dressing of a compost made of seven parts well-rotted manure, and 1 part ashes, which should be thoroughly incorporated by being several times shovelled and re-shovelled over. Spread this compost between the rows and fork it in carefully, so as to avoid injuring the necks of the roots; that done sow enough salt over the bed to whiten the surface.

Shrubs of all kinds, Fruits, as well as Flowers may still be set out any time during this month. We should prefer setting them out this month to doing it in the spring, as there would be a greater certainty of their bearing fruits and flowers.

Dahlias—The tops of Dahlias should be cut off within two inches of the ground, the roots should be dug up and buried in the cellar with dry sand.

Flower Roots should be taken up and put away where they will not be frosted.

Sage, Thyme, Chellots, and all the other garden herbs may still be set out.

Tomatoes—If the vines with fruit in a state of ripening on them are taken up, and hung in the barn, the fruit will ripen, and thus may a supply of this excellent vegetable be continued for weeks long beyond the period when they could be relied upon if left out in open culture.

Beets, Farmips, Carrots—These should all be dug and stored away.

Horse Radish—A supply of this should be taken up and buried in sand for winter use.

Fruit Trees—These should be planted out this month as soon as the leaves fall.

Stiff Beds—Any stiff, clayey beds in the garden should be spaded up and left in the rough to receive the meliorating influence of the winter's frosts, and the texture next spring would be improved if lime were spread over the surface early this month or next—and a still greater improvement would be effected if a few inches, in depth, of sand were spread over the surface, to be dug in next spring.

FLORICULTURE.

Prepared for the Amer. Farmer, by Saml. Feast, Florist.

WORK FOR NOVEMBER.

Green-house Plants must be carefully watered this month. Give as much air as possible on fine days.

Azaleas—Water sparingly during this and ensuing month.

Camellia buds will now be swelling, and should be watered freely at their roots. Syringe occasionally over their leaves.

Cactuses—Keep moderately dry and cool until they begin to advance in the spring.

Chrysanthemums, in pots, must have plenty of air and water.

Paeonias may still be transplanted with success.

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FENCING! FENCING!!—The Farmer, the Gardener, and indeed the Cultivist of whatever name, need no elaborate argument to prove that to protect and secure the products of his toils, by substantial and durable fencing, is second only to his concern in the culture and growth of his crops—or that it is of no less importance in the matter of expense. The attention of the public is invited to a newly invented variety of fencing, which for cheapness, durability, and convenience, is preferable to any fence hitherto used—this fencing is designed and equally applicable for an ornamental enclosure for dwellings, lawns, &c., as for separating and enclosing fields upon a farm. Among the advantages which it proposes, the following are some that might be named: It requires less material; occupies less space upon the ground; is less liable to get out of repair; is more durable than fences in common use. It affords certain protection against all kinds of cattle, sheep, &c.—it combines lightness with strength, it makes very little shade thus affording light and heat for vegetation; it is portable, and is capable of being transformed at pleasure, to suit any shaped lot, it affords gates at any point and of any size; it can be manufactured from any kind of lumber or such as cannot be split into rails, it is a sure protection for gardens and fields from fowls, dogs, &c.—being too high and pointed to be jumped and too close to admit a passage through—it being light can easily and readily be removed from place to place and set up without injury. It being open is not thrown down or affected by high winds. In short it is found to be a highly valuable and convenient fence—it is manufactured with great rapidity and facility by very simple machinery worked by water, steam or horse-power. The undersigned having purchased the Patent Right for the State of Maryland, and being desirous that the advantages of this invention should be extensively diffused throughout the State, will sell Rights for the various counties, (except Frederick, Carroll and Montgomery, these being sold) on very favorable terms, and furnish machinery to those who will purchase and put this valuable invention into actual operation.—The machinery can now be seen in operation, either at the Triadelphia Factory, Montgomery county, at the farm of Col. Jas. C. Atlee, New Windsor, Carroll county, or at the farm of the subscriber, Mount Pleasant, Frederick county, as also sample specimens of the fencing itself. For any further inquiry, addressed (post paid) will receive attention.

sep 1

CHESTER COLEMAN.

THE SUBSCRIBER takes pleasure in returning thanks to the many gentlemen who have favoured him with their **MILL-WORK**; also to the farmers and planters for their liberal support in the Machine line, and would respectfully inform them, that his endeavors to please will continue unremitting. He is prepared at all times to build any of the following kinds of **MILLS**: Overshot, Pitch Back, Breast, Undershot, Reacting, Steam, Wind, Tide, Horse-power, or Tread Mills; and having the best of workmen employed at pattern and machine making, he can at all times furnish the best articles at the lowest prices, such as Horsepowers, Pettigrew Shellers, Murray's Shellers, 4 kinds hand and power Shellers, portable Mills adapted to any power, Corn and Cob grinders, Straw, Hay and Fodder Cutters, Cargo Cows and Mill Cakes; also manufactures Hoisting Machines, Hoisting Cranes, Pile Drivers, Turning Lathes and Steam Engines; and any kind of Machine Model or Mill-work built to order. Any kind of Catings and Smith-work at the lowest prices. I warrant all Mills planned and erected by me to operate well.

JAS. MURRAY,
Millwright, York near Light St. Baltimore.

Also for sale, Jas. Murray's patent separating Shellers, which shells and puts the corn in perfect order at the same time, for the mill or for shipping—Persons living near the city can bring with them one or two barrels of corn, and give the shellers a fair trial before purchasing.

He has also for sale, the following second hand Machinery: 2 pair 4 ft 6 in. French burr Millstones, with all the gearing; 1 pair 3 ft 6 in. French burr Millstones, with all the gearing; and some Saw Mill work—the whole are good, and any or all of the above will be sold low.

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HALIFAX, N. C. August 25th, '47.

MR. JAS. MURRAY,—Dear Sir:—This is to certify that I have used your fans during the last spring and summer, and feel no hesitation in saying they are the best by far, I ever saw, I fanned with one fan, one thousand barrels of corn in one day—and in one day fanned one thousand bushels of wheat, as it came from the threshers. They will do as much as any two I ever had, in the same time.

Yours, &c.

W. B. HATHAWAY.

LIME.

THE subscribers are prepared to furnish Building and Agriculture Lime at the depot on the Back Basin, corner of Eden & Lancaster streets, which they will warrant to give satisfaction, it being burnt from pure Alum Lime Stone, equal to any found in the United States. Orders may be left with William Robinson, No. 15 Hollingsworth st. near Pratt.

lm.

FELL & ROBINSON, City Block.

THE "Simon pure," and invincible **WILEY FLOW** still in the field—A. G. MOTT, at No. 38 ENON STREET, near the Bel-air Market—Manufacturer and Vendor of Implements of Husbandry, viz. Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Grain-Cradles, Wheat-Fans, Corn-Sifters, Straw-Cutters, Endless chain Horse-Powers, Threshing Machines, &c. &c.—through this medium, would apprise the agricultural community of the fact, that he is the only manufacturer in the "Monumental city" of the **GENUINE WILEY FLOW**, (right and left hand) composed of the real "simon pure" and justly celebrated New York composition, chilled castings, the points of which, are warranted to stand the most rugged soil equal to steel, at a cost of about two cents per acre, for blacksmith's bill.—If you are for bargains, call, or send your orders, for he guarantees his implements good as the best, and cheap as the cheapest, for cash, and delivered in any part of the town free of charge.

THRASHING MACHINERY, HARVEST TOOLS, &c.

THE subscribers are manufacturing an unusual large assortment of agricultural machinery for the coming harvest—all of which they warrant to be equal as regards plan of construction, durability, &c., to any similar machinery made in this country. They may be rated and priced as follows, viz: Lever Horse Powers, 3 sizes, at 85 100 and \$150
Endless Chain Powers, 2 sizes, at 85 and \$110
Thrashing Machines, 4 sizes, at 35 40 50 and \$60
Straw Separators for do. 3 sizes, at 15 18 and \$30
Grain Cradles, made with iron and wood braces
—extra and common finish, at 4 and \$5
Horse Hay and Grain Rakes, best quality, \$11
Hand Rakes, Hay Forks, Scythe Stones, Sickles, Cradlers, Hammers, &c., also
Corn and Tobacco Cultivators, made with cast iron and steel tines, price 4, 5 and \$6
Corn and Drag Harrows 5 to \$16
2 and 3 Furrow Plows—improved 5.50 and \$6.50
Fanning Mills, with separating fixtures, greatly improved 25 30 and \$35
We are also manufacturing extensively, our late improved drilling machines, which, with tests during the last season, has proved the article to be perfect in every particular—they are fixed to drill almost every variety of grain, but particularly adapted for wheat.

In the next number of this paper we will say more in regard to this new and valuable machine.

R. SINCLAIR, Jr. & Co.
Manufacturers and Seedsmen,
62 Light-st.—Baltimore.

PALE FENCING.—DAVID BURBANK has for sale at his manufactory, on Hughes Street, South-side of the Basin, adjoining Messrs. Cottrell & Brown's Marine Ways, a beautiful and cheap article of **PALE FENCING**, strong and durable for Front Yards, Garden Lots, Grave Yard Lots, and other enclosures.

Price for pannel per 10 feet, without posts, \$1.25
do do 10 feet, with posts, rails not planed, 1.75
do do 10 feet do and rails planed, 2.50
SHINGLES of the best quality, for sale at prices, varying from \$5 to \$15 per thousand.
N. B.—Orders left at Mr. E. WHITMAN, Jr.'s, No. 55, Corner of Light and Pratt-sts. will be promptly attended to.

September 25, 1848. oct 1

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—LABOR SAVING MACHINERY.—GEORGE PAGE, Machinist & Manufacturer, Baltimore st. West of Schroeder st. Baltimore, is now prepared to supply Agriculturists and all others in want of Agricultural and Labor-saving MACHINERY, with any thing in his line. He can furnish Portable Saw Mills to go by steam, horse or water power; Lumber Wheels; Horse Powers of various sizes, ranging in price from \$85 to \$200, and each simple, strong and powerful. His Horse Power & Thrashing Machine, he is prepared to supply at the low price of \$125 complete; the Thrashing Machines without the horse power, according to size, at \$30, 40, 65 and \$75; Improved Seed and Corn Planter, Portable Tobacco Press; Portable Grist Mills complete, \$12.

FENCING—FENCING.—The undersigned is now prepared to furnish the entire apparatus, or any part of the machinery for the manufacture of the new, beautiful, and highly economical kind of **FENCING**, advertised in the last August No. of this Journal, to such as desire, together with the Patent Right for any of the counties of this State, except that of Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Baltimore, and Prince George's—also for the entire territory of Virginia, or any part of it—fees for any part of the territory of Pennsylvania unsold. For particulars, description, &c. see the American Farmer, No. 2, for 1847.

C. COLEMAN.

Mt. Pleasant, Frederick county, Md., June, 1848.
July 1

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The adjourned meeting of the Society will be held at the Hall of the Mechanic's Institute, over the Post Office, in this city, on **WEDNESDAY EVENING, 23d November, at 7 o'clock**—The members and all persons wishing to join the association are invited to attend.

By Order **C. B. CALVERT**, President.

SAME SANDS, Recording Secretary.
 The Board of Curators and the Vice Presidents, together with the Executive Committees of the several counties, are requested to meet at the Show Grounds, on Wednesday morning, (the day before the Fair.) nov 1-1t
 The Plowing Match will take place at 1 o'clock, the First day.



MOBILE SEED STORE.
AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS for the Sale of Plows, Straw Cutters, Corn Shellers, Harrows, Cultivators, Seed Planters, Water Rams, &c. The undersigned have been for many years devoted to the advancement of Agricultural, Horticultural, and other scientific pursuits, for which a taste is advancing in this State rapidly, and beyond any other period of its existence; and aware of the want of an Agent located in Mobile, in whose judgment in such matters, the citizens of this and the adjoining State, and the proprietors can have confidence, and who would take a direct and personal interest in furthering the introduction of approved Agricultural and Horticultural implements, tools and machinery, we are induced to open an Agency in this city, devoted to these branches alone. From our knowledge of, and acquaintance with the Planters of Alabama and Mississippi, we are enabled to offer greater inducements and facilities to Patrons and Inventors for the sale of their articles than can be obtained elsewhere. We will open an exclusive

AGRICULTURAL AGENCY WAREHOUSE IN MOBILE,

INVESTORS TO THE SOUTHERN PLANTER.
 Inventors and Patentees are invited to a correspondence, (post paid) relating to Plows, Harrows, Rollers, Cultivators, Horse Powers, Grain and Rice Thrashers, Hauling Machines, Fanning Mills, Cotton Gins, and all other articles useful to Planters and Agriculturists.

It may be proper to add that the great Mobile and Ohio Rail Road, of which Mobile will be the depot, will go on to a rapid and certain completion, and that this will shortly be a point inferior to none in the Union, for the sale of everything connected with the vast interest of Agriculture in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, and through the terminus of the Road at the mouth of the Ohio, with the "Great West," whose outlet this will be in a fair and profitable rivalry with New Orleans.

We will make prompt returns of all business confided to us.
 Agricultural works received on commission.
 Mobile, Sept., 1848. S. B. NORTH & CO.

Refer to: Hon. John Gayle, Member of Congress; Messrs. Stewart & Easton, Esqs.; J. G. Lyon, Esq., U. S. Marshal, Messrs. LeBaron & Son; J. C. Hodges, Esq.; Collier H. Minge, Esq.; Messrs. L. Merchant & Co.; J. H. Rivers & Co.; Robert Desha & Co.; David Stodder, Esq. nov 1-6m.

PERUVIAN GUANO.

500 TONS of Genuine Peruvian Guano, fresh from the Chinese Islands, now landing from on board ship, for sale in lots to suit purchasers. Farmers will do well to be upon their guard of whom they purchase Guano, as much is sold under the name of Peruvian, which is spurious, and almost entirely worthless.

FLOWERS, &c.—Upwards of sixty different kinds of Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Thrashers, Horse Powers, and Agricultural and Horticultural Implements of great variety.

FIELD AND GARDEN SEEDS.—A complete assortment. A Descriptive Catalogue of 100 pages, will be sent gratis to all who request it, post paid. Apply at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store of A. B. ALLEN, nov 1-2t 189 and 191 Water Street, New York.

FOR SALE.—The thorough bred horse, **BILLY MORGAN**. Billy Morgan is a Blood Bay, without a hair marked with white,—he is about 17 hands high,—he is a sure foal getter and his colts will bear comparison with the get of any horse in the state. Billy Morgan was got by the celebrated horse, John Richards, and was foaled in May, '33. Dam Miss Lizzie by Sir Alfred, g d. The Lady by Ball's Eagle, imported into Richmond, in 1811, g g d. Old Lady by Seymour's Spread Eagle, g g d. Rose of Sharon by imported Pantaloon, g g g d. Queen of Diamonds by Col. g g g d. Philadelphia, which mare was purchased by Col. Faneuil, of Williamsburg, as a brood mare, by Mr. Tyler of Virginia, and said to have been one of the finest animals ever seen. For terms apply to **SAMUEL SANDS**, Owner of the American Farmer.

He will be exhibited at the State Society's Cattle Show and Fair, to be held in Baltimore on the 9th and 10th Nov. He took the premium at the Fallot Co. (Md.) Fair last year. nov 1-1t

NOTICE.—**E. WHITMAN'S AGRICULTURAL MACHINE SHOP**, Removed to Jonathan S. Eastman's Old Stand, No. 180 PRATT STREET, Baltimore. The increased demand for Whitman's Agricultural Machinery and Implements, has made it necessary for him to enlarge his business, and he has therefore made arrangements and moved into the extensive Buildings formerly occupied by Jonathan S. Eastman, where he will be able to furnish his customers with all his variety of Improved Implements at the shortest notice.

His Warehouse still remains at the corner of Light and Pratt Streets, Baltimore, Md. nl E. WHITMAN.

PUBLIC SALE OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—The subscriber having rented out his manufacturing establishments on Pratt, and also Leadenhall sts., he is under the necessity of disposing of his whole stock of Implements on hand, by the 1st of December next, he will therefore offer the whole at Public Auction, during the State Agricultural Fair, to be held in Baltimore next month (November.) The time and place will be duly given—it will be between the 7th and 13th, and probably at or near his Pratt street store, No. 180, as the articles are numerous and heavy—consisting of about 89 Ploughs, including all sizes; 5 Horse Powers; 9 Threshing Machines; 2 Corn and Cob Crushers and Grinders; 6 Corn Planters; 1 Wheat Fan; 2 large Harrows; 9 set of Swingle Trees, and a variety of smaller articles, such as Hoes, Shovels, Spades, Garden Implements, &c. The above named articles are all made of prime materials, and in the most substantial manner. nov 1-1t J. S. EASTMAN.

ASPHALTED ROOFING FELT.—This felt is highly recommended as a durable roofing for houses, as also for the use of railways, and for sheeting ship bottoms. It is much used in England, where it is patented, and testimonials can be produced of the high estimation in which it is held in that country. Further particulars can be had of the subscribers, who will receive orders for the supply of the article. A sample is also left at the office of the American Farmer. nov. 1 GUEST & GILMORE, Baltimore.

FOR SALE.—The Minor and Horton FLOWS of every size, with all their extra Castings.—Also, Wiley and all other FLOWS and CASTINGS, all of the Northern manufacture and materials. We also keep one of the best hand Corn Shellers in this market, which we will warrant to all who purchase. We have a lot of large size 2 and 3 horse Plows of the Wiley and Minor & Horton, which we wish to get off and will sell them very Cheap, at W. GAWTHROP & SON'S, mh 1 1848. No. 71 Bowler's wharf, Baltimore.

FOR SALE.—A Devon Bull, got by Col. Capron's fine bull, Eclipse, of Mr. Patterson's stock. He is 5 years old. Price \$100. Apply to S. SANDS. nov 1*

BOOK & JOB PRINTING neatly executed.

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